

SEVEN DAYS

PAY
TO STAY

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Regulators
eye Airbnb



DRIVE-IN INN

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Drive-in movies at the Sunapee



WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

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Tig Notaro, the 100th comedy host



MOBILE MEALS

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10 ways to fix the food truck survey

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An advertisement for Sixpoint Farmhouse Tap & Grill. The top half features a circular logo with the text 'THE FARM HOUSE TAP & GRILL' inside, with 'THE FARM HOUSE' in a larger serif font and 'TAP & GRILL' in a smaller sans-serif font. The bottom half features a large, bold, red 'SIXPOINT' logo. Below it, the text 'Wednesday May 28th 5pm to late' is in a smaller serif font. The main text below that reads: 'Our buddies from Brooklyn are rolling in for a night of rambunctious revelry headed by their humble & hilarious President, Shane Welch! Kegs of barrel-aged Imperial Oat, of course, Gorilla Warfare + a brand new IPA with all Vermont grown hops & other surprises, too. Beer is culture, ya dig?' The bottom right corner has the text 'FARMHOUSE TG.COM' in a white, sans-serif font.

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Jeanne Collins Leaving Burlington...for Rutland?

With weeks remaining Burlington School Board Superintendents Jeanne Collins agrees to leave her job on June 30. Her genes aren't schedule with a \$20,000 severance package. Finance director David Lancaster is also stepping down.

The departures won't readily stabilize. Burlington Mayor Mimi Bergstrom and several Burlington city councilors have called for Collins to resign after a series of financial missteps left the schools sprawling in the red. The Internal Revenue Service is expected to fine the district for unpaid assessments.

On Tuesday the Rutland Herald reported that Collins is

a finalist for another superintendent job this one in the Russell-Normand Supervisory Union. A second finalist will interview Collins at the only one in the running. "I very much enjoyed this position and I believe I'm good fit for their needs as well," Collins said in a statement following her report. "I just would like to consider other options before I make a decision." Alice Freese wrote about Vermont's unique pension backlog shortage in a news story this week in page 1B. The remaining news of Collins' Russell split is in — and on several Days of Disclosure blog. Freese past immediately attracted comments from readers, including these:

I work 1200 hrs. per year, I spend \$100,000 for doing my job properly. And you expect me to be a non-profit. And you wonder why money is not working against the budget.

—Karen C.

Stay in 'Paxton' career in Vermont, isn't you a crazy job, don't a school district have an easy, manage something so poorly set up like it's all over another job in the same state. Kenny Wilkins

—Kenny Wilkins

I don't believe my job is to save the district. I am charged with overseeing Jeanne Collins' performance and her departure. Her departure is not unexpected. Let me tell you, this is the most over-qualified person I have ever seen. She is going to land a job in a hot market. And, people there are actually impressed.

—Gaye Hollingshead



If she gets a new job right away, Burlington should have to pay her the severance right? Surely someone is smart enough to put that in her original agreement... —Peteplus

Why doesn't she take her big walk of money and visibility for the Paxton Corp. for a year or two and then a good for the community? I don't see her really doing that... I hope there is somebody out there watching the money in Burlington. B. Kain

—B. Kain

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That's the size of the Vermont Cancer Center's Executive Technology wing currently under construction in the South Champlain Medical building on Burlington's Main Street. The space donated by FirstTrust, once housed an array of telephone operators, now starts out cancer survivors and set up shop there.



facing facts



BIG WILD
 Are flood victims ruined? **Comment**
 Path to Burlington
 officials are racing around trying to find out where the
 mudslide that may have
 killed a woman in
 —Steve Blodgett



BUMPS AWAY!
 Burlington Police
 Senior Captain
 Jennifer Gagnon
 and her husband
 Paul bring their
 two sons to the
 "Who's Who" in
 —Steve Blodgett



END JUDY?
 Unemployment in
 Vermont dropped
 yet again, to 3.9
 percent, well
 below the national
 average. Much to
 the burgeoning craft
 beer industry?



ABOUT ME
 Retired Justice
 Shirley S. Smith passes
 away — left
 after 90 years —
 former
 member of legislature,
 Brooks County
 New York the big

TOP FIVE

Most popular stories this week

- 1 **A Review of the State Budget** by Alan Lefebvre. Our state voter approved a balanced budget for the first time in 10 years. Read more on May 16.
- 2 **Burlington Flood-Catastrophe** by Alan Lefebvre. From purchase papers to the Irene-Kat's Doghouse, Center Street will never become a new one.
- 3 **10 Message: Welch Says Something About Healthy Toppers** by Phillipa Marshall. Congresswoman Phillipa Marshall reports she has no record of her holding in the U.S. House of Representatives a bill to ban use of the synthetic Healthy Topper.
- 4 **10 Message: 'It's Certain' State, Burlington School Board Members Face State Elimination** by Alan Lefebvre. A conflict between state law and the city charter is forcing Burlington School Board members, and other school districts, to change their
- 5 **Unpigging Rutland, Vermont: See More** by Kathryn Hegg. Rutland goes from a pig to a pig-free project. Critics say the company backed its outreach to the community.



tweet of the week:

Taylor Dennis (@TaylorDennis10)

10:00 AM - Jun 19, 2016 via Twitter
 Just today, I moved into my old college dorm room. I'm still in awe.



RECOMMENDED BY THE EDITOR

DATA: TWITTER: TWITTER.COM/CHAMPLAIN

local work. "Conceptual art" is a term bandied about these days for the type of art favored for institutional exposures. I often love conceptual art, as long as it moves us, toward from and with the natural. A recent visit to the street-level EPA left me feeling unusually energized and, well, sad. Several small vases – tilted and dislodged – hung on the gallery wall while the viewer's eye was drawn to the plastic bodies of the protesters sitting mid-floor, exposed and small. In another area, I was told that a euphemism was required so that I could call the artie and have him explain the pieces to me. Should I have simply stayed home and watched the whole thing from my computer?

I have nothing against technology in art, in the right hands the results could be awe-inspiring. But sometimes I fear that technology is being used for technology's sake – or to mask instead of reveal. The subject being discussed in this particular show was a mother's suicide. Shouldn't it be a little more meaningful? Making my way home, I stopped at Marshalls on Main Street, where Maria Miller's delicate paintings were on display and resonated. Sometimes I wish our big, beautiful, three-dimensional gallery space in the heart of downtown could more consistently celebrate what brings us to our senses.

Sharon Webster
ELMINGTON

MORE THAN A PR PROBLEM

Many thanks to Kadya Flagg for her weekly article "Pipe Dreams," in which she captures the perspectives of many of us Vermonters – landowners, environmentalists and local communities – who oppose the International Paper pipeline. I must challenge the flawed premise, however, that everything would be fine if Vermont Gas Systems were better behaved. While the company's managers have agreed more people's rights to the issue, you can't put lipstick on a pig. I mean PR would not change the street to our rights and our environment by the proposal to use Vermont's pristine land to transport fracked gas from Canada to New York State, with all profits going out of state.

The White House and the U.S. recently issued the strict warnings yet about what will happen if we don't take back all fossil fuels, and now research

from Cornell University says fracked gas is Worse for the climate than coal or fuel oil. But we don't even have to agree that this pipeline would aggravate climate stability. It's up to us to ask Vermont to ensure costs and risks for the exclusive benefit of multi-billion-dollar companies based in Canada (Vermont Gas) and Tennessee (International Paper). I hope to see all who are concerned about Vermont's integrity and the public bearing on the International Paper pipeline Thursday June 13, at 7 p.m. at the Middlebury Union High School Auditorium.

Rebecca Foster
CHARLOTTE



TASTE TEST

Regarding Sean Patrick Durkin's letter [Feedback, "Back to 1994," April 28] in which he writes about the first GM&D food, the tomato, and that he would like to be able to feed his daughter the way our ancestors' parents fed them at dinner, I have an even simpler desire: I'd like to be able to eat a tomato that tastes like a real tomato.

Edith Steep
ESTELLA JUNCTION

GREAT NEW CARTOON

Just when I thought yet guys could not do anything better with your paper you proved me wrong. Michael DeForge is a brilliant cartoonist and "Sticks Apache" is an entry bit as hilarious and intelligently funny as "The Far Side" and "Calvin and Hobbes" is and was. Keep doing what you're doing because it makes me laugh. Thanks.

Eric Pfeifer
ESTELLA JUNCTION

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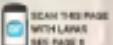
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WHAT'S HOT / WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK
HIGHLIGHTS / BETHANY COPP

7



2

Palette Pleaser

Watercolor artist Mary Brynn, a college painter and life coach, was an instant hit. The talented namesake of 2 different ice cream parlors, Brynn's *Alice in Wonderland* has been adapted from page to stage countless times since its 1993 publication in print. The Northern Vermont Ballet Company brings the zany underground world to life. In an original adaptation of this captivating tale.

SATURDAY 24 & SUNDAY 25
DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE

With colorful characters such as the Mad Hatter and the Cheshire Cat, Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* has been adapted from page to stage countless times since its 1993 publication in print. The Northern Vermont Ballet Company brings the zany underground world to life. In an original adaptation of this captivating tale.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 89

SEE REVIEW IN PAGE 82

3

WEDNESDAY 29

Notes From Home

Before settling in Burlington, composer and violin player Anne Groves Agius spent 30 years performing with the Legion of Honor Radio and TV Shows on Debutante. Now with her ensemble *String Avenue*, he channels the sounds of his native country in a solo, in-progress show featuring a suite of 10 compositions inspired by 10 composers in Vermont.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 89

4

THURSDAY 22

Open Water

In 2004, Laura Dassow made international news when she became the first person to swim across Lake Champlain. Now, after a prolonged logjam, the water nerd has embarked on what would become a 27,000-mile nautical journey. Featuring footage shot onboard Lauren Schlessinger's 2013 documentary *Horizon*, captures this remarkable undertaking.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 89

5

SATURDAY 24

Nature's Way

When it comes to natural living, Vermont is at the top of the list. American foragers and the hunt to conserve the state's natural resources. *Urban Foraging* is the swing-army guide to harvesting wild edibles, diggable berries and mushrooms. Along with other healthy prehistoric habits, it holds a confidence that explores the possibilities of plant-based health, including

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 89

6

SATURDAY 24

Doggone Good Time

In 2006, Stephen Hawking's *The Big Bang* (a putative which was granted "Welcome All Friends At Home No Dogs Allowed!" a spiritual haven for canines) is now filled with thousands of photographs and handwritten messages honoring the 10,000-plus pets. Tales and poems celebrate the endearing best friend of the species' 10th anniversary party.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 89

7

FRI DAY 29

In Harmony

Musicans who play together stay together—particularly those performing at *Music on the Mountain*. A Benefit for Madeline Barnum, an all-star line-up featuring Britt Hughes, Michael Chorney, Jessi Pando and others that the high notes in support of the long-time benevolent rockabilly singer's most beloved showbills over 40 years with equal parts talent and velocity.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 89

Specifically, the president of Barn-based Mike Truel faults Shurtleff for failing to address rising property taxes and refusing to disclose how he plans to finance his proposed single-paper health care system.

"I think that, for the popularity he has and the tremendous popularity he has in both houses [in the legislature], there has been a complete lack of leadership over the last two years," Mike says. "On top of that, instead of being humble about what he got done, his message after the session was that this was one of the greatest legislative sessions in history. I think that was not the case at all."

So what's Mike's path to victory?

"Some members by themselves," he says, "admitting he'd be a 'long shot' if he came the day by June 12, when necessary partitions are due and when he plans to make up his mind.

Mike has yet to line up campaign staffers or raise a dime and doesn't plan to fund his own campaign. Oddly enough, he seems to be begging for a GOP primary opponent, arguing that the Democratic first-ever gubernatorial primary in 2006 strengthened Shurtleff as a candidate.

"**MIKE CHAMBERS** would be governor but for the Democratic primary," he says, referring to the former lieutenant governor and Shurtleff's vanquished general election loss. "The pathway [he] paved is a robust, non-antagonistic gubernatorial primary with at least two very credible candidates."

Mike comes from a long line of elected officials. A cousin served as attorney of state; both parents served in the Vermont House and, in 1938, his grandfather became the first Barn Republican since Reconstruction to win election to the legislature.

But Mike himself hasn't had much luck. He lost a race for state rep in 2006 and a seat on the library selection committee in 1998 — though he chalks the latter loss up to the same recognition enjoyed by his opponent, a descendant of the 18th-century political luminary, **JACOB CHAMBERS**.

"I barely got into by a dog on the campaign trail and knocking an door," he says of his sidebar board.

Another "electoral triumph" as recalls was his bid for governor of the mock government Boys State as a high school student in 1976.

"Of the six or seven folks that ran, the only name I can remember right now was the guy who won, Brian Duley," he jokes.

So, given that electoral track record, why not right off on Vermont's big office?

"I think that's a huge benefit to somebody coming in from the outside with some new ideas."

POLITICS

Musical Chairs

In its sixth Seven Days, we called Senate President Pro Tem **JOHN CAMPBELL**'s chief of staff, **MICHAEL RENOS**, one of the legislature session's big winners. Since becoming the Senate's sole staffer in December 2012, Renos received order to the chamber and became more influential than most a handful of legislators.

But on Monday, Renos gave his notice. He'll be departing the press office at the end of the month, she says, and her destination is yet to be determined. (We wouldn't be surprised to see her staying in the game — at a Montpelier lobby shop or elsewhere in town.)

Campbell is currently seeking a replacement.

"There's a part of me that's super-sad about leaving because I love these people," Renos says. "I love the Senate. It's home to me."

Also leaving his post is Vermont Progressive Party executive director **MICHAEL MILLAR**, who has held the position since January 2012. Millar says he's "pursuing some different professional options," including a run for the Vermont House seat being vacated by retiring Rep. **GERALD CONNOLY** (D-Winooski).

"I think that, on a personal level, I have reached a point where I was ready to try something new," he says.

As Millar transitions out of the role, the Pugs are hoping to hire an "executive director" to guide its efforts this fall, according to party chairwoman **ANDREA HANNAH-STRONG**. The Pugs will consider a search for a new executive director later this year.

Lastly, is special assistant to the governor **SARAH CHAMBERS** in line to manage Shurtleff's reelection campaign this fall? As the Burlington Free Press' **MARK MALLON** first reported, Correll is collecting signatures to get his name on the ballot and is representing him at the Vermont Democratic Party's state committee meetings — a role typically played by the guy's campaign manager.

But according to Shurtleff spokesman **MIKE CHAMBERS**, the work is entirely "volunteer." The guy brought on fundraising consultant **ERIK WOLSTEN** in January and, according to Afaria, a part-time college student this month but he wasn't officially named a campaign manager "until closer to the campaign." Whatever that is.

A Burlington native, Correll previously worked at Congressman **PETER VELCICK**'s office, where he worked alongside the pol's son, a congressional page.

INFO

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Catching Airbnb: Vermont Regulators Zone In On DIY 'Innkeepers'

by Kathryne Flagg

When 31-year-old Clark Reppen moved back to his native Vermont in 2012, it was after years of traveling. In various trips throughout Europe, the hip freelance designer found lodging via Airbnb.com, the website that lets users rent out their homes or open bed rooms by the night.

Back in Vermont, the adventurer turned local legend, who'd returned to the state to help care for his ailing father, found himself in one bedroom George Street rental on the site for \$100 a night. A year later, Reppen's profile on Airbnb was flush with recommendations from visitors who stayed at the apartment he advertised as "modern, cozy and quiet."

"I love Burlington, and I want to share that with people," he said last week.

Many others have been sharing, too. Airbnb's popularity in Vermont has skyrocketed in recent years. Plugging "Burlington" into the site's search engine last week turned up 259 rentals, altogether. Vermonters have created more than 1,000 listings that range from simple spare bedrooms to expansive lakefront estates. Vermont's most popular listing — a treehouse in Lincoln — has a five-star rating from guests and 154 glowing reviews.

But Airbnb's growing popularity has some experienced innkeepers experiencing — and nervous.

"Airbnb has taken their share, despite looking to try to capitalize on that more-holiday feel, which is what B&Bs have been doing for ages," said Jordan Davis, an innkeeper at the Willard Street Inn. "Do I think there's enough business to go around? It depends on the time of year."

The rooms on Airbnb are often cheaper than traditional inns or hotels, and innkeepers point out that homeowners need hosts aren't necessarily paying by the same rates as their industry counterparts. Hotels and B&Bs in Vermont are required to undergo annual Department of Health inspections. In some communities, there-based innkeepers are also collecting and remitting 3 percent meals and rooms tax in addition to local taxes.

Meanwhile, visitors to Burlington are trying to educate homeowners here that it's not okay to ignore zoning permits required for temporary rentals.



Clark Reppen stands in his apartment.

Airbnb, along with other tech logistics facilitating the so-called "sharing economy," is under more scrutiny than ever elsewhere — notably San Francisco and New York City. The problem? The traditional way of regulating lodging hasn't kept up with a technology that can easily turn a layperson into an innkeeper.

"I have to go through all those houses and these people just get it open up their room," said Linda Wolf, the owner of Made INN Vermont, a bed and breakfast on Willard Street in Burlington. "It's ridiculous."

For these, that is — and more. In fact, say, say, say, negotiating with the City of Burlington for a permit to add parking or increase guest capacity. Last year, Wolf spent months on the application process, which she says is a catch-and-release frustrating permitting process with the city trying to do both.

Complaints from Airbnb have hurt her business, she said. So last week Wolf began listing her rooms on the platform. "To me it's like, 'OK, if you can't rent it down, you just do it,'" she said.

Megan Smith, Vermont's commissioner of tourism, has the same advice. So innkeepers. No rule keeps

established. I was at 800\$ from using Airbnb to track my rental guests.

Linda Poston, who runs the Little Pine Guest House in Burlington, jumped onto Airbnb when she went into business three years ago — back when Burlington only had 10 listings. In the last year, the site has driven 75 percent of her guesthouse's business. The year before, the Chamber of Commerce website reflected the majority of her customers.

But innkeepers point out that pricing Airbnb doesn't solve an underlying problem: B&Bs that play by the rules typically have higher costs.

"We look at it from the standpoint that competition is a healthy thing, but we want it to be at a level playing field, and right now it's not," said Davis, at the Willard Street Inn.

Davis had to through the extra costs that local businesses incur: meals and room taxes, inspection and permit fees. A 20 percent higher property tax also in Burlington because the city is considered a commercial property, not a residence.

"It adds up," he said.

Burlington code enforcement director Bill Ward said the city has

sent more warning letters to residents suspected of operating B&Bs without permits, but added that officials are more interested in clearing up confusion about when permits are required. The simple answer: Homeowners should check in with Planning and Zoning before renting out rooms. If they don't need a permit, the office will confirm that in writing — and if they do need a permit, the zoning process allows neighbors to weigh in.

Planning and zoning clerk Noelle Anderson said the city has heard from residents concerned about tourists driving up and down residential roads and knocking on doors in search of their rentals.

Vermont's Department of Taxes is also piping closer attention to the site and to similar services. It published a fact sheet last year to educate hosts, and officials are reaching out to Vermonters they suspect aren't paying the required 3 percent meals and room tax. The department has so far collected \$145,000 in back taxes and penalties this fiscal year.

Commissioner Mary Peterson chuckled when asked how the

Second Toddler Death Casts a Pall Over the Vermont Department for Children and Families

BY MARK DAVIS

For the second time in three months, the death of a Vermont child has been ruled a homicide. Although the details about what happened last month at Windham have mostly been kept from the public, what went wrong has emerged from behind closed doors as the underlying unanswerable questions about how the state Department for Children and Families handled the situation.

Court documents place the following individuals inside an apartment at 264 Main Street Bay in April 4:

- Fifteen-month-old Phoenix George, whose unexplained bruises had prompted a Fletcher Allen Health Care doctor to call DCF two days earlier
- His mother, Nyasha Luforte, 26, in profile after serving a two-and-a-half-year prison term for stabbing a man in the neck and trying to strangle him into prison
- Her boyfriend, 24-year-old Tyler Chicone, who has an extensive rap sheet of an over-10, and, on that particular day, a black eye and scratches on his hands
- Investigator John Belair, a 25-year DCF veteran who had risen through the ranks to a supervisor position but happened to be doing paperwork that day. After seeing the child asleep in a crib, and casting the bruises on his neck, Belair left the premises. George died an hour later of trauma to the head and neck.

Why wasn't the child taken away?

State officials, including Gov. Peter Shumlin, have called for multiple investigations into DCF's role in the incident, which was only made to one in February that also claimed the dead child.

Two-year-old Deanna Sheldon of Rutland was killed on February 28, 28 days after DCF returned her to her troubled home. Soon thereafter, officals announced that the department would conduct an internal review, an independent panel would examine the agency and legislative committee would be convened to consider policy changes.

None of those investigations had made much headway when news of George's death broke. In fact, the group conducting the independent inquiry, the Vermont Citizens Advisory Board, hasn't met once. "We're not moving fast enough on this issue," said State Sen. Kevin Mullin, R-Rutland, who is on the committee of lawmakers that convened six times before the legislature adjourned. "We have two dead children. Do we have to wait for a third?"

When and if the investigations do conclude, it's not clear how much will be made

public. Though plans are not final, officals said both the DCF internal review and the advisory board's inquiry could result only in a public release of conclusions, not the underlying unanswerables. Last week, leaders of the citizen advisory board

expressed reluctance about revealing the names of some of its board members.

Meanwhile, the clamor for answers from DCF is intense.

"There's not ever going to be a system that gets it 100 percent right, but that

doesn't mean when something doesn't go right that we don't work to make it right," said Jennifer Pechkis, executive director of the Vermont Children's Alliance and a member of the citizens advisory board. "I do think that there has to be a way to address what the public needs now, which is answers. That's important right now, in order to have confidence in the system moving forward."

DCF Commissioner David Yocomon urged people to avoid rushing to judgment.

"They're drawing conclusions without all the information," Yocomon said of his agency's critics. "I understand what apprehension looks like, but that's not how we make decisions."

The thousands of Complaints

Last year, DCF received 17,800 complaints of potential child abuse or neglect. Of those, roughly 5,000 prompted further investigation, and about 2,200 resulted in action to protect a child.

DCF investigators can't simply remove a child on their own. They need a judge's order, or in emergencies can summon police officers, who have the ability to remove children they deem to be in "imminent danger."

The background of the adults involved can be considered in determining imminent danger, Yocomon said.

In the George case, Luforte's mother, Laffitte, recalled a friend of her former boyfriend as her previous Foster Justice home in 2005. After an argument with the man, she plunged a knife four inches into his neck, according to court documents. While serving time, she was busted for trying to smuggle two buprenorphine pills into the facility, according to court documents. The drug is used to treat opiate addiction.

Chicone's record includes assault and robbery, simple assault, prohibited sex acts, and disorderly conduct, according to court records.

Within a few days of George's death, both were back in jail—though not in connection with the child's untimely passing; no one was ever charged in the death. Luforte's parole was revoked after the toxic presence of cocaine and marijuana, and Chicone's parole was revoked for testing positive for buprenorphine, according to court records.

"Concerns over substance abuse, propensity to violence, out of control," Vermont Parole Board chairman Dean George wrote about Luforte in a form revoking her parole.

WE'RE NOT MOVING FAST ENOUGH ON THIS ISSUE. WE HAVE TWO DEAD CHILDREN. DO WE HAVE TO WAIT FOR A THIRD?

STATE SEN. KEVIN MULLIN • R-RUTLAND



Asked why Peughan had not been taken to LaForte, Yacovino said he was unable to discuss the case — at any DCF case, for that matter. He confirmed that Salas, the DCF investigator, remains on active duty.

The commissioner did note that DCF was apparently not the only entity that decided against intervention to protect Peughan.

Search-warrant documents filed in court — which provide the only public account of events preceding Peughan's death — indicate the toddler was found in the Fletcher Allen health care emergency room on April 2, two days before his death, for "vomiting, vomiting and fever." It was then that a doctor around the hours, which LaForte and Cheneau could not explain.

Fletcher Allen staffers called DCF and told LaForte to expect a home visit soon.

"Bear in mind that the physician decided that the child could come home," Cheneau said in an interview.

The commissioner isn't the only one to question Verma's alleged hospital. "Also wondered why the child was taken to the hospital and doctors observed 'bleeding that nobody could explain,' and the child was discharged home with just a call to DCF," Freshman said.

Fletcher Allen chief medical officer Steve Leffler declined to discuss Peughan's case, citing patient confidentiality. But in general, Leffler said, Fletcher Allen doctors decide to allow children with suspicious injuries to return home only after consulting with DCF. Only on extremely rare occasions, he said, will physicians decide unilaterally to admit a child in the emergency room.

"We have a conversation with them to help make a determination," Leffler said. "It's a judgment call, and it's a collaboration."

Investigations Loom

In addition to the criminal probe and an internal DCF review, the two groups convened to explore DCF's handling of the death of Deanne Shadlow now have Peughan to consider too.

What's taking so long? The Vermont Citizens' Advisory Board, headed by Burlington pediatrician Jim Hagan and BDCDC Collaborative executive director Sally Jordan, decided to wait for Verma's State Police to finish their work on the murder case against Deanne's neighbor. There's no schedule for when it will commence or issue findings, Jordan said.

When members do get to work, it's not clear how comfortable they'll feel operating in the public eye. Asked for an updated list of people on the 22-member committee, which includes Burlington Police Chief Michael Schuring, Freshman, former

prosecutors and judges, and child safety advocates, Jordan said Seven Days is keep some confidential as grounds they've received services from DCF.

"These folks were reluctant to have their names put in there in that way," Jordan said. One person already resigned from the group in anticipation of unwanted media exposure.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Human Service Secretary Doug Racine and Shadlow expects the group investigating DCF to cooperate.

"He's been clear with us as an organization that he wants a thorough, no-holds-barred type of investigation," Racine said. "He wants to know if there's anything that we should have done differently."

In an interview, Shadlow said he was "disgusted" by the pace of the inquiries into DCF after Deanne's death. "We are looking at every aspect of the tragedy," he said, noting he'd been assured the investigation into Peughan's death "will move more expeditiously."

Lawmakers aren't sitting idly by.

Almost immediately after Deanne's death, Senate President Pro Tem John Campbell (D-Windsor) formed a special committee on child protection and began asking questions of DCF, but it stood because apparently the group wouldn't be able to finish its work before the conclusion of the most recent legislative session. It has scheduled 10 state-wide public hearings in June to hear testimony from lawmakers who have had contact with DCF. The goal is to use policy recommendations in the fall that lawmakers could take up during the next legislative session.

Of particular interest to the committee's chairwoman, Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Sue Staub, are the consequences of laws permitting DCF a tendency to break families intact instead of putting children in foster care, and laws that provide a cloak of confidentiality for much of what DCF does.

"Reconstruction of families versus the best interest of child safety, it's been a concern of mine for some time," said Staub, while Staub said DCF has responded with its committee's inquiry, a little-mentioned measure just before lawmakers adjourned that says its regulations may be wary of the department's privacy policies.

In a highly unusual move, the committee retained independent power, which allows it to compel DCF to offer documents and to testimony.

Staub said he hopes to never use subpoena power but wants the tool in the committee's back pocket in case it bumps into problems getting information from DCF about the two deaths. ☐

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Superintendent Shuffle: Why Vermont's Top Jobs in Education Turn Over So Quickly

by ALICE FREIJE

I took a lot of red ink and behind the scenes negotiations to get Burlington School Superintendent Jessie Colucci to agree to resign last week — effective at the end of the school year — after nine years on the job. But an alarming number of other superintendents around the state are leaving of their own accord.

At the end of June, nearly a third of Vermont's 60 something superintendents are leaving their posts. The main cause for concern of any real Vermont's secretary of education, Rebecca Holcombe: "If that was a business," she recalled recently telling a group of state senators, "and you had 20 percent turnover every year, you'd think it was a crisis."

By some you're young. The same person is a finalist in the search, which suggests there are not enough candidates statewide," Holcombe said.

"We are seeing the pool of interested applicants diminishing," enthused Jeff Barnes, executive director of the Vermont Superintendents Association.

Case in point? Colucci is already a finalist for superintendent of Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union — a post that opened six early April when its super signed on with North Country Supervisory Union. Currently she's the only finalist; the other candidates dragged out to accept the superintendent job in Windsor Northeast.

Superintendents are truly tired, too. "I think there is a leadership crisis in Vermont," said North Country's superintendent, Robert Kerec, who is stepping down after seven years in the post and 42 years in education.

Why should we care? "Research shows that growth of tenure is associated with student 'gains,'" said Holcombe.

"It's just destabilizing at every level of the system when you have turnover at the top."

Vermont's 18 surging superintendents are leaving for reasons ranging from retirement to scandal — some are simply moving from one supervisory union to another. But the annual shakeup begs for some analysis.

"Our supervisory structure is, in fact, a relic of years gone by," is how Barnes puts it. As stewards of these conglomerations of towns and schools, the superintendent's job is a complicated one.

Supervisory unions were created at the turn of the 20th century, with superintendents installed as their chief executive officers. Currently, Vermont is divided into roughly 60 supervisory unions, some consist of a single pre-K-12 school but most comprise multiple

schools. Superintendents oversee these units, coordinating services such as special education, testing and transportation, and they report to each district's school board.

People often take the job after serving as principals, assistant superintendents or director of special education. Often over 16 and 25 percent of principals and assistant principals leave their jobs each year, according to Ken Page, exec director of the Vermont Principals Association. Superintendent salaries range from \$79,000 to \$114,000, and average \$104,000. That's pretty plush for a public sector job in Vermont. Barnes cautions, but not so competitive with other New England states.

Superintendents are being lured out of state by higher salaries, however.

According to Barnes, most of the move out occurs within Vermont's borders, and, according to Holcombe, "What we tend to see is migration from smaller districts."

And those aren't necessarily the ones you might think. "The stability of leadership has been a hallmark of our district," said Mary Moore, who's closing out her 15th year as superintendent of the Rutland City Supervisory Union. "The most important thing I do is say — you gotta play."

Among those departing is June Franklin Northeast's superintendent, Jack McCarthy, who with 15 years under his belt is believed to be the longest serving superintendent in the office. "Can you imagine having 25 bosses?" McCarthy said, referencing the total number of board members he reported to. After spending 15 of his 25 years at meetings each year, the superintendent is permanent in looking for a job that will let him return home by 6 p.m.

"It takes a lot



of time ... to develop the trust that goes into making that successful — the three-way relationship between the board, principal and superintendent," said Dan French of the Burlington-Williston SU, noting that, for him, "it took five years to get the system working."

Late nights, lots of mileage and an overabundance of broken ice symptoms of a larger issue: The cumbersome system, with authority vested in multiple boards, can make it

difficult for superintendents to get much done when it comes to sharing resources and implementing reforms across districts.

**IF THIS WAS A BUSINESS
AND YOU HAD 30 PERCENT
TURNOVER EVERY YEAR,
YOU'D THINK IT
WAS A CRISIS.**

REBECCA HOLCOMBE
VERMONT EDUCATION SECRETARY

"We have superintendents chomping at the bit to make substantive changes," said Brian Rayburn, superintendent of the Essex-Caledonia SU. "But sometimes the governance structure doesn't allow that to happen."

"Currently it takes about 34 votes to get a policy approved," said North Country's Rayburn, explaining that each of its 13 boards must vote twice before approving a policy proposal. "It's good to have checks and balances, but I think it creates large delays in moving forward."

"At least 50 percent of my time is just associated with governance functions, preparing agendas and so forth," said French. "There's a lot of repetition."

Superintendents say their jobs are further complicated by an ever-growing collection of well-meaning mandates handed down by state and federal governments. And their position has become more political as declining student enrollment makes maintaining affordable budgets increasingly tricky. "That creates stress on our administrators. You have to put yourself out in the

community and sell something that's going to be a hard sell," Holcombe said.

During the recent legislative session, a number of superintendents lobbied for a bill that would have shaken up their spheres of influence — if not totally dissolved them.

Had it passed, H.883 would have done away with supervisory union leaders and gradually consolidated the state's 278 school districts into roughly 50. One school board would preside over each district, and proponents argued the new arrangement would make it easier for schools to share resources.

The proposal stirred alarm among advocates of local control, who rejected the one-town, one-school board model.

French insisted that the VEA's support for the bill didn't stem from the fact that it would simplify things for superintendents — "I have never had a superintendent complain to me about the number of school boards or school board meetings that they have to contend with.... What they do lament is the inefficient utilization of resources."

H.883 passed in the House but died in the Senate, leaving education policy makers to contemplate some incremental changes. "It's a complex problem, and it's been useful to have the conversation in the legislature," Holcombe said.

In the meantime, the Vermont Agency of Education is trying to find ways to "clarify" the superintendent's role — which can vary widely across the state — and to develop an evaluation model similar to what they've constructed for teachers. The VEA started a "superintendent academy" last year to address the dying-up pipeline pool. The nine-day training acquaints potential recruits with the skills needed for the job.

As for wholesale change that might make it easier for schools to hold onto their superintendents? "We are hoping to continue to have conversations to see how we can continue to move toward more sustainable leadership models," Holcombe said.

Until then, Vermont remains a superintendent's market. ☐

Disclosure: Abbie Preese's partner, Charles French, was jointly employed by several education associations prior to May 16, including the Vermont Superintendents Association, the Vermont School Boards Association and the Vermont Principals Association. Contact: abbie@seventdepot.com

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Donna Lee (Navin) Beaudoin

1828-2014 RUTLAND

Donna Lee [Navin] Beaudoin, 85, passed suddenly on Friday, May 9, 2014, from complications of a stroke. She was born on December 2, 1928, in Pittsford, N.Y., to Robert J. and Dorothy [Wolfe] Beaudoin.

In 1965, she married to

Veronique with her family. She had a passion for knitting and sewing, and was a well-known master of intricate needlecrafts, an engaging much of her time interests. Donna was a very talented artist, creating beauty through her drawing, paintings, knitting, and so much more. Donna had an impressive skill for rug hooking and was a member of the Green Mountain Rug Hookers Guild. She proudly displayed her awards in shows at Shiloh Barn in Rutland and in several National Rug Hooking Association shows. She was a public citizen. She is survived by her daughter, Jessica Hennigan, and her husband, Wade of Combermere, Ont., and Myles Remond of Edmundston.

Wade, She is the sister of William Robert Jones, John Charles Jones, and John Kehnlein. She has three grandchildren, Clayton Rice and Tracy Mongeon, as well as a large, loving family with many, many nieces and nephews.

"I will be in remembrance event to celebrate the life and love of Donna Lee on Saturday May 24, at the American Legion, 39 Washington St., Rutland, Vt., from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. All are welcome. A gift of refreshments and a beverage will be provided. If you wish to speak in remembrance, that would be most welcome. Speaking and sharing will begin just soon.

Want to memorialize a loved one in Seven Days?

Post your remembrance online and print at lifelines.sevendaysvt.com. Or contact us at lifelines@sevendaysvt.com, 866-732-0377.



Jessica Lynn Brunelle 1982-2014

Jessica Lynn Brunelle, 32, of Winooski and Old Sturbridge City, died unexpectedly at her residence in Winooski on May 4, 2014, due to complications from diabetes. Jessica was born in Burlington on May 10, 1982, the daughter of Raymond and Cecile [Lyon] Brunelle. She was a graduate of Winooski High School class of 1999. Jessica was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 1997 and had to take insulin to control her blood sugar. She continued to work with their company and her wife, Cecile, to care for her. Jessica is survived by her parents, Raymond and Cecile Brunelle of Winooski.

diabetes and lived her life battling the disease each day.

Jessica had her life fully and loved to be in the spotlight. Even as a fly as a child, she always walked around on her tiptoes, smiling, waving, giving a high-five, or putting on her own little show. She had friends & family, and loved to go with and friends, and make new friends. Jessica had a great sense of humor, and always had a smile on her face. She was a good mother, and spent most of her adult life in Burlington. However, in recent years, she moved to Rockport, Ariz., and in July 2013 she moved to Old Sturbridge City for a new post, on with UPS. She was very proud of her work and her education with the company and her wife, Cecile, to care for her.

She was a member of Seven Days and has been a member of the Seven Days family.

Darlene [Bartlett] Kehnlein, 64, of Winooski, died Saturday, May 10, 2014, at her home in Winooski. She was born on March 20, 1950, in Rutland, Vt., to Walter and Dorothy [Bartlett] Kehnlein. Darlene was blessed with an extended family of many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She taught us many of the things they do best.

She was a ray of our lives and the sparkle in our eyes and she is now our

an angel.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, May 20, 2014, at 10 a.m. at the Seven Days Church, 30 Old Sturbridge Rd., Seven Days, Vt. Donations are to the American Diabetes Association. Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.angie.com.

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OBITUARIES • IN MEMORIAM • ENGAGEMENTS • WEDDINGS • BIRTHS • BIRTHDAYS • GRADUATIONS

Teens Run the (Art) Show in the New Young Curators of Vermont Program

By KATE ELLIOTT WATKIN

this Saturday, an exhibition titled "Systematic Parades" opens in the gallery of the Vermont Center of the Arts in Montpelier. More than 30 precisely Vermont artists including Jennifer Gaskins, recent winner of the Vermont Art and Ideas Prize, are displayed beside contributions from nationally renowned artists, such as Japanese contemporary artist Tatsuo Horiuchi and Serbian artist Bojan Alilovic, a fifth-generation Turkish paper master.

"Just about every medium" is represented, according to **Teila Keeney**, one of the show's curators. She adds that the "systematic parade" theme "meets a lot with balancing chaos and order in our daily life, and how each of us approaches that differently. But it's not about disorder [order] or creating a pathway through chaos."

Hill and co-curators **Julie Keeney**, **Eliza Schemer**, **Samuel Schreiber**, and **Grace Schlesinger** have known a thing or two about chaos. The set knew — you, you read that right — recently puzzle work classes at Burlington High School, extracurricular activities and their own art making. Each has rallied up an impressive collection of their collective track record includes art competitions, Art and Design contests, acceptance to the Governor's Institute on the Arts, and

exhibitions at Vermont museums, and freelance art and design work.

Though their schedules seem to be booked from evening to night, the young artists have been working here for a month and a half to prepare to present a difference art show, *anyway*.

The six students are the first "class" of *Young Curators of Vermont*, a program launched at the start of the academic year by **Kate Beasley**, www.taliesin.org/young-curators. The three Chittenden County artists and longtime friends first collaborated as members of Burlington's 255 College Gallery, a female artist collective, which closed in 2011. "When that gallery closed its doors, we decided we wanted to keep our tag past to talk about art," says Watkinson.



Left to right: *Young Curators of Vermont* participants, from left, Keeney, Gaskins, Schlesinger, Schemer, Schlesinger, and Watkinson.

at NURTURart, an arts and education nonprofit in Brooklyn. While in town, she happened to observe NURTURart's student-curators program in action.

Inspired, she brought the idea back to Watkinson and Teila, who were similarly enthused. "There's nothing like it around here," says Beasley. The group — members of the educational

and with experimentation," says Teila. "And that's what happens in curating. You're much easier by a particular artist or work, or an idea, and you follow it."

That attitude, it turns out, applies to educational projects as well as networks — at the moment, *Young Curators of Vermont* exists in a kind of love. (The students) volunteer their hours, the students didn't receive any additional school credit. "All of us had a working relationship, and the trust [of our mentor], so it was a good way to start," Donnelly says.

For eight months, the young curators and their older mentors eat twice a month and went through each stage of curating an exhibit. The students come up with a theme — the tension between chaos and order — that's relevant to their day-to-day lives and interesting to a general audience.

Though their conceptual starting point was, well, high school, they gathered an impressive roster of artists and

You're struck either by a particular artist or work, or an idea. And you follow it.

—Schemer, 18, on H

After more than a year of discussion, the trio founded *Young Curators* last September. The BHS students already knew one another and had taken Donnelly's after-school art classes in elementary school. The initial seed of the program had been planted in 2012, when Donnelly participated in a show

benefiting high schoolers in a potential career path in the arts, learning to create an exhibit lesson plan that young artists can apply in various circumstances — including the creation of their own work.

"As an artist, you pack a theme or a topic, and you follow it with research



thing's up online, you hear your phone buzz and you can't bind it. Everyone is so distractible!"

So he made a show about it — or more to the point, is still making the show, what's not surprised will be totally impressed because Schreiber can't predict what will happen. "The strategy is to bind the art pieces and then experiment with the audience," he says. "Every once in a while just want to jump off the cliff. It's scary," he admits, "but it's a lot of art shows."

So any curatorial who might like the sensation of poking on the phone in the theater — and the potential chaos of everyone doing it — should go to this show.

As a bonus, you'll also get to see two of Schreiber's older works

in *Intimate Art*, a solo show from a man on a buzz planet.

At that performance, Schreiber premiered another solo work. But come Friday, he'll be new working on a film version of that piece with a production company in Germany. And because the guy apparently never stops, he's also collaborating with Vermont poet *Paula Nolin* on a musical about global warming: *Climatic Change: The Arcane*.

PAMELA PELESKE H

Info: www.taliesin.org/young-curators 802-860-4100. **3 Edges:** Art solo theater performances by David Schreiber Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 22-24, 8 p.m., at Off Center for the Dramatic Arts in Burlington. \$15. **Info:** www.taliesin.org/3-edges 802-860-4100.

thrEE For thE Show

you will likely hear the inquisitor. Please turn off your cell phone" — many times a day. Allowing your phone to ring during a performance, never mind actually talking on it, is a huge and universally agreed-upon no-no.

Except for **Detonation**. At his one-man show this week he actually encourages audience members to talk on the phone in an exhibition onstage. That is, after all, one of the main themes — there are three, each with three Thursday evenings. The solo play, the sololy named *Detonation*, is a new work the Burlington actor is workshopping in preparation for a West coast tour later this year.

What were his motivations? "It's so hard to concentrate anymore," he laments. "You get a cell you look

thing up online, you hear your phone buzz and you can't bind it. Everyone is so distractible!"

So he made a show about it — or more to the point, is still making the show, what's not surprised will be totally impressed because Schreiber can't predict what will happen. "The strategy is to bind the art pieces and then experiment with the audience," he says. "Every once in a while just want to jump off the cliff. It's scary," he admits, "but it's a lot of art shows."

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effort to develop a sophisticated selection of works that would appeal to adult audiences. The students searched the MEMORY ARTS council's artist database, among others, to find artists whose work they admired, then called specific pieces.

"There was a lot of work that we all did as individual pieces, but that didn't necessarily work for the overall theme or with the rest of the show," Lach says. The group established selection criteria — no pieces with figures, for example — but several decisions came down to a vote.

"Creating a show is a lot like working

on an art piece," observes Zuzan Hale. "You have to work on it over time."

Once their initial hypothetical show was fully planned out, the students drafted letters to their chosen artists and contacted area galleries, having no idea whether anyone would want to participate.

They needn't have worried: 16 out of 20 artists the Young Curators invited to be part of their show signed on (and paid their own shipping and insurance). VCFPA claimed use of a gallery

PGC CURATORS 26 PGN

SHARING THE PKN LOVE



It's been four years since the **PKN MUSEUM** at The University of Vermont began hosting **PKNACUCHA NIGHT** — and since few can properly pronounce the Japanese word [it means "this chisel"], it's time to just call it PKN. [Launched in 2003 by young creative types in Tokyo, the rapid-fire presentation format quickly became an international phenomenon.] And for good reason: names there have referenced art through book readings and slide shows, the origami of reason, why not require participants to narrate attendees for 20 seconds apiece?

The presentations are typically individuals from creative occupations — artists, designers, architects and the like — with representatives of a nonprofit or two for do-good measure. The idea is to show images from recent work, an ongoing project, or anything that lends itself to good stories and thought-provoking concepts. The event, however, has one of the rules of engagement: *if* there must be a star notes **Hearing doctor Jason Cates** [The museum offers drinks and light snacks].

It's been "fabulous," Cates says of the local PKN. "We had a huge crowd, but we felt like it would benefit from expanding the event." That's why

the museum has partnered with three other institutions — the **ICA CENTER**, **LENOX LAKE AQUARIUM AND SCIENCE CENTER** and the **THEATREWORKS** — to take turns hosting the quarterly event.

"We're all expecting it will expand the presenters," Cates continues. "The audience has been fantastic — 100 to 200 people — but the presenters could be even broader [with less change]."

She suggests that, for example, someone involved in lake or other science might like to talk about his or her work at ECHO. The venue will have its own natural constituency.

The (lengthy) last PKN — for another year, anyway — happens this Thursday evening, May 22. In three months, look for the **ICA** Center's first one.

"It's such an exciting and fun event and has a strong following globally," Cates says. "I'm excited to see what will happen."

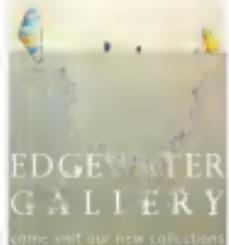
PAMELA POLESTON

INFO

PKNACUCHA NIGHT, Thursday, May 22, 6 p.m. at the Hearing Museum, 100 Main Street, Burlington, 05401. www.pkn.org



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STATE of THE arts

In Memory of Adrien "Yellow" Patenaude: Newport Loses a Colorful Son

BY BRIAN MIRONICH

Pablo Picasso said, "There are two painters who transform the sun to a yellow spot, but there are others who, with the help of their art and their intelligence, transform a yellow spot into the sun."

Last Tuesday, Newport lost a beloved artist. His name was Adrien Patenaude, but most knew him as Adrien "Yellow." Often seen walking down Main Street or sitting in a local cafe, he was an unmistakable figure in Newport, always wearing a yellow beret.

Patenaude was in the second category of artists in which Picasso referred, but he went a step further. With his art and his intelligence, he transformed the Vermont landscape into his signature sunny hue. His use of yellow and contrasting purple characterized a style as unique and recognizable as he was—which is saying a lot. Patenaude didn't just make art; he lived it. He was warm and colorful, like his paintings.

Yellow and purple are not necessarily the colors that come to mind when you think of the Vermont landscape, a subject that makes up the bulk of his work. But Patenaude was not a traditional landscape painter; his compositions borrowed more from the color-field movement, a style closer to abstract expressionism than to representational art. In his tilted bands, the use of yellow and purple as dominant colors might be considered a gimmick. But the remarkable thing about Patenaude's work is that it needs no explanation. Viewers just seem to get it.

"The way the sky meets the hills and landscapes, and the way the sunsets change appearance in shapes and light, have played a large role in expanding



PATENAUME DIDN'T JUST MAKE ART; HE LIVED IT.

my perception of the environment," Patenaude wrote of his work. "This has helped me to see more than just the reality of the view." This artist chose to challenge reality in color rather than form; his works even depress with shadows. Patenaude's paintings suggest that we can not only challenge but transform appearance. Anyone who has taken in Patenaude's landscapes can appreciate that the artist was correct. The beauty of it all does go somewhere beyond the physical reality of the view.

Patenaude was born in Newport on April 30, 1950, and grew up on a farm in Holland. He attended North Country Union High School and graduated in 1970. He later attended the Swan School of Design in Massachusetts, where he earned a degree in graphic design. He founded a graphic design studio called Upturn Graphics on Kalburn Street in Burlington in 1986, but returned to Newport to work about 30 years ago.

Patenaude passed away on Tuesday, May 13, 2014, at the age of 64. He died

peacefully at Fletcher Allen Health Care after a brief battle withophageal cancer.

He is survived by his parents, Joseph and Lucille Patenaude, as well as by three brothers and five sisters, his son, Aaron, and Kristen Warner, his girlfriend of 10 years.

A memorial has been set up in Newport's Natural Market and Cafe, located just upstairs from Patenaude's studio. A portrait of the artist is on display with bouquets of yellow flowers placed beneath.

Another of Patenaude's legacies to the community: He illustrated Noah's Song, a forthcoming children's book by [Amy Johnson](#). All proceeds from the limited print run of 500 copies will go to an art scholarship established in Patenaude's name.

"He was a caring and valuable asset to Newport," says Newport Mayor [Mark Johnson](#). "When the city was faced welcome signs, we turned to Adrien for the job. He will certainly be missed for his generosity and contribution to our community."

Young Curators

Montpelier artist Gwen Siverson says she was "delighted" by the invitation to participate. "It is such a valuable and meaningful program," she writes in an email. "I've been impressed with the level of professionalism through every step of the process, from selecting a range of accessible artwork to writing a thoughtful curatorial statement and maintaining good communication with the artists involved."

This Friday, May 23, the students will travel to Montpelier to hang the show. "I'll be so excited," Siverson says. "I'll just make it feel real." Though they've plotted out how VCA's gallery will look using a master model, most of the students won't see that there until Friday, and it will be their first time seeing the art for real.

Next year, Doreen, Whittemore, and Tekin hope to keep the Young Curators Program going, preferably with funding and no organizational overhead. "This year we decided to just do it, and that's an attitude that's in our art as well," Tekin says. "There's肆urousness I think you have to embrace as an artist, and I think [Young Curators] was a gauge of that for us, just having all ready to jump in."

This year's batch of students, however, feel that the experience gave them a boost. "It really made me appreciate how much work goes into a show," says Kenny. "Just knowing how much work we put into this."

INFO

Exhibition Period: May 24 to June 14, in memory of the Vermont cottage at Rose Arts Center Hall in Montpelier. Reception Saturday May 24, 5 to 7 p.m. youngcurators.com



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Dear Cecil,

I've been hearing a lot about probiotics lately. I can see where the concept might be a good idea, but I have one question: After you've taken a probiotic supplement and established a colony of good bacteria in your intestinal tract, why do you have to keep taking it (other than to maintain someone's boat payments)? Shouldn't the colony you've established be self-sustaining?

Ken Sweetman



and other food processing, as well as drugs, additives and so on, that suppress normal bacteria.

There's some truth to this. A round of antibiotics can kill off your intestinal flora, necessitating (if necessary) frequent trips to the loo. If that happens to you — and it happens to about a third of those treated — there's a roughly 40 percent chance probiotics will ease your distress. Likewise, someone whose bacteria reservoir has been reduced after having a section of their gut surgically removed may be advised to consume yogurt or probiotic supplements to help make up the deficit.

But these are exceptions, and the evidence suggests it's usually in the exceptional cases that probiotics may be of use rather than as a preventive measure. One thing about gut bacteria: When their little lives are troubled, they let you know. Diarrhea is the least of it. Some examples of instances in which probiotics have proven helpful:

- **Diarrhea:** In children, probiotics significantly reduce the frequency of ulcerative colitis attacks.
- **Children's susceptibility to colds:** Children are significantly fewer outbreaks through age 6 when treated with probiotics.

Of course, prevention is a non-obvious benefit of growing gut bacteria. On the whole, however, evidence for the broader benefits of probiotic supplements is limited. For instance, a study of overweight adults who drank fermented milk containing probiotic bacteria found they lost both fat and weight relative to control subjects. But the study was small, with just 43 subjects.

Even in some conditions where you'd figure they'd help the most — e.g., those directly involving the gut and the bacteria therein — probiotics provide little or no value. A meta-analysis of research involving 11 different types of probiotic bacteria and eight different gastrointestinal diseases (including the previously successful *lactobacillus* success story mentioned above) found no significant improvement in both prevention and treatment by 42 percent. However, you're striking across a broad range

of conditions, goals and therapeutic agents, it's inherently iff. Examples of intestinal ailments where high hopes for probiotics have gone bust include necrotizing enterocolitis, sometimes seen in premature infants who lack protective bacteria, irritable bowel syndrome, and Crohn's disease.

That hasn't stopped some from promoting probiotics as a Crohn's cure. Claims that probiotics can help fight hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS and cancer are likewise unsupported.

Diarrapedic! You needn't be let me tell you about enteric probiotics, more commonly known as fecal transplants. It's pretty much what it sounds like: Stripping raw mouse. Fecal transplants have been shown to be effective in treating Clostridium difficile disease (CDAD), a complication of gut bacteria loss due to antibiotic use that as of 2007 was taking more than 16,000 *Antennae* a year. Needless to say, the procedure is more involved than swallowing a few pills, and no one would suggest it as a preventive measure. But if you honestly God need to establish a self-sustaining colony of good bacteria in your gut — and especially the No. 1 thing on your to-do list if you have CDAD — here's a treatment that works.

INFO

Is there something you need to get straight? Cecil Adams can deliver the *Straight Dope* on any topic. Write Cecil Adams at the Chicago Reader 111 E. Illinois, Chicago IL 60611, or www.chicagoreader.com.

Not possible, my friend. At my rate, not early I'm afraid probiotics have been a bit overused.

Your digestive tract is a housing no of more than 100 trillion bacteria cells representing hundreds of different species and in the aggregate weighing an average of seven pounds. A teaspoonful of probiotic supplement, if we may trust a random online promotion, contains 4 billion organisms. In other words, the bacteria in your gut outnumber those in the spoon 25,000 to 1. The chances are strong the newly introduced microbes won't establish anything of importance, let alone a colony, during their transit down your alimentary canal. And lest they may provide some ephemeral benefit, although there's no guarantee of even that.

For those new to the concept, probiotics are foods or

supplements containing viable "good" bacteria and yeasts meant to help digest food, protect against dangerous invaders and build up the immune system. Some assert that a deficit of beneficial bacteria can lead to serious GI trouble including irritable bowel syndrome, infectious diarrhea, necrotizing enterocolitis and ulcers.

Scientists have long known the bacteria in a healthy digestive tract differ from those in someone who visits along. A century ago some proposed that rather than live with a gut full of bad bacteria, one might eat certain foods to modify one's microbial demographics. Milk products, yogurt especially, provide probiotic bacteria, but on the whole, the theory goes, our modern diet is deficient in helpful bacteria in part as a side effect of modern cleanliness. We encounter fewer bacteria of any kind due to pasteurization

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WTF?

Vincent Vegan You know what the *flavor of the month* is?

Julie Whiskey! I'd drink it!

Vincent It's the little *it* you know, they got the same *flavor* over there that we got here, but it's just there's a little *it* over there.

Julie *It's*?

Vincent All right. Well, you can walk into a movie theater in Amsterdam and buy a beer. And I don't know if it's like in my paper over The *Talking about a glass of beer*. And in Paris, you can buy a beer at McDonald's.

— *Pulp Fiction* (1994)

Your local McDonald's can't likely start selling charging St. Patrick's Day shamrock shakes with Guinness.

Reina Street and Vine sees just the U.S. does have its share of movie theaters that serve soda (and beer) these days, particularly in college towns. Perhaps that's why a regular *Jesus Dogs* reader asked, on recently to if and why why Burlington-area theaters sell beer, wine or cocktails WTP?

Short answer: Because movie theaters currently have a liquor license.

A little background: So-called draft-beer theaters, or *keg houses* that serve food, beer and other slushy concoctions, aren't a new phenomenon. And it's not the oft-mentioned *Barq's* or movie houses, where consumption of beer has been de rigueur for decades, since American movie theaters began offering options in the 1960s to supplement their bottom line. Not surprisingly, if the trend continued with the extreme rise of blockbuster videos, the once-obscure home video rental chain that drove a wedge through the hearts of countless independent cinemas.

In 1993, the Commonwealth Theatre, a 1,045-seat art-deco movie house in Burlington's Vt., became the first theater in the country to serve alcohol during films. *Screen Savers*, according to the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO), that same year, the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema opened in Austin, Texas, serving beer

Why can't moviegoers buy beer or wine in Burlington-area theaters?

with dinner and a movie. Known for its phobic-looking interior and a strict enforcement of theatergoer etiquette, the Alamo Drafthouse chain quickly spread to a dozen locations in the Lone Star State, then across the country.

By the mid-2000s, other theater chains were serving alcohol, including AMC Dine In Theaters, which offers 21-and-older "Ginza Suites" with extensive food menus, full cocktail bars and luxury recliners. Recently, downtown Burlington's house of screens has become a neighborhood attraction while taking on a summer blockbuster by considering a night out on the town. Donning an equal number of beers in one's living room while parked in a La-Z-Boy is considered stockholder.

In 1997, NATO reported that just 18 theaters in the country allowed patrons to imbibe. Today, the trend is to grow fast — New York legalized the sale of beer in movie theaters in 2011 — though the organization no longer tracks the exact number, estimating "several hundred" nationwide.

Is Vermont behind the times? Not entirely: Bill Grogan, who runs the education, licensing and enforcement division of the Vermont

Department of Liquor Control, reports that at least three theaters in Vermont are currently licensed to serve beer. He can't cite an exact figure, explaining that the DLC database doesn't indicate which licenses are otherwise. Alcohol-friendly theaters in Vermont include the Stowe Cinema 8, which features an extensive bar of beer, wine and liquor (though "no Standard Malt"), the Big Picture Cafe & Theater on Winooski, which sells alcohol in its gift and wine stores, and the Sassy Theatre on Main Street, which has sold beer and wine in its basement for at least two years.

"People appreciate it," notes Sassy owner Terry York. "It's just a big part of our concession sales."

So why can't Burlingtonians order a beer with a cold one during *Avatar*? Dollar Bills or Korn during *Godzilla*?

Mark Juras III, who owns Marcy's Royal Cinema on Parkridge, Palace 8 Cinema in South Burlington and the Majestic 10 Cinema in Williston, says

he's been asked many times to sell alcohol in his theaters. His answer: uninterested.

"I know a lot of other theaters are doing it around the country," he says. "But I like it the way it is."

Not that Juras hasn't tried it already. His family owned and now closed Marcy's Showcase on Williston Road, above theater that's the mid-1980s attachment to a restaurant and bar called Bigg's.

"It was way ahead of its time," Juras recalls. "People didn't really get the concept." Too far ahead, evidently: Juras closed Bigg's after just two years. Similarly, Rose Cinema once had a restaurant that served beer, but it's been closed since 2001. It closed after just 26 months in business. Manager Dale Chapman says the establishment "just didn't fit our model at the time."

Juras has other reasons for not wanting beer taps next to his popcorn machine. For one, the Royal sells many tickets directly to the University of Vermont, which distributes them free to students for Tuesday, Friday and Saturday shows. "With 25,000 students, Juras explains, to prevent underage students with nonresident tickets to attend as

weekends. Free tickets get them off campus and downtown, where they support other local businesses.

Marley says he's also wary of the coded expense and legal liability associated with a liquor license, including the strict insurance and state-mandated six-hour training. All it would take is one不慎 patron getting caught drinking to close his theater down for weeks, he says.

Finally, Juras notes that many patrons, who are typically in the theater for two hours or less, are within walking distance of more than 70 drinking establishments in downtown Burlington. Anyone who comes to drink, he says, will find one.

"Plus, I don't want my theater smelling like County Bar," he adds. "I like it smelling like fresh popcorn."

INFO

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Collateral Consequences



If you are convicted of a criminal offense in the state of Vermont, you may never be issued a license to drive cars or livestock, work as a radioisotope supplier or set up a business at the airport.

Your landlord can legally evict you, a potential employer can reject you out of hand. If you were convicted of a violent or sexual offense, you will forfeit your inheritance.

You are not allowed to own a firearm or join the military. Federal laws bar you from public housing and except of no employment insurance, food stamps or health Up. You might be prohibited from fishing in a national park.

Many times Vermont towns, including Barre, Stowe, Springfield and Winooski, don't want you in town, either." or "Forget getting a job."

In other words, you're lucky to live in Vermont, because it's one of only two states — Maine is the other — that largely ignore state water laws, including its environmental laws. But if you move, you may find that right, it's those state laws that determine how you live in your new state.

These sanctions and disabilities to non are not part of the sentence for the offense. They are what happen to the offender after he has paid the fine, served the time and completed probation or parole. They are called "collateral consequences of conviction," and, according to a national database compiled by the American Bar Association, Vermont imposes more than 100. The feds have 2,500 more.

That's all up — from deportation for non-payment to local bars or sex of dealers distributing Halloween candy to children — and the ABA counts 18,000 such restrictions nationwide. Many are mandatory and permanent.

"If you look at each one of these, a lot of them make sense," says Burlington attorney Richard Cassidy, who, as an active member and outgoing chair of the national Uniform Law Commission, has been pressing Vermont's policy makers for years to address this issue. "But the people who face them don't fit into each one they face all up them," Cassidy says. "The state sets up a sort of social firewall that no one can see but that separates us or, under from living a normal life" — a home and a legitimate job, connection to family and community. "They can't get through it. Whenever they turn, there's it."

It is therefore heartening that the Vermont legislature this session passed the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act. The law requires the state to compile and publish all these consequences and the court to inform criminal defendants of each of them. Knowing how their laws could be used is likely to give pause to many people who otherwise plead guilty for a lighter sentence.

Among criminal defendants, that means almost everyone. Overstressed courts, overextended public defenders and prosecutorial pressure, backed by the high risk of going to jail when long mandatory sentences loom, compel

more than nine out of 10 criminal defendants to enter plea deals. The trials are usually absolute.

Tougher warning defendants of the consequences that could await them with conviction, the UCCCA, gives an eventual way out. At sentencing, the convicted person can ask the court to block some of the sanctions (say, loss of housing or an occupational license). And 10 years later, ex-convicts may apply for permanent restoration of their rights, presuming they've stayed on the straight and narrow.

That's the heartening part.

The disheartening part is that in the law's framework of negotiations, Justice Committee chair Dick Sturz (D-Burlington) introduced an amendment automatically revoking from relief those who've committed any of the 21 listed offenses in Vermont state, as well as for" along significant cause than drug. That wiped out hope for a large portion of Vermont's criminal code.

Given that a bill hasers extended two years ago was almost identical to this year's House Bill 410 — both let anyone seek relief and let the courts sort out who gets it — it's clear that opponents, probably prosecutorial, managed to水 out some of the last minute.

In 2011, then senator Vince Iannelli (R-Roxbury Center), an Essex County state attorney, killed "bills" 61 by threatening to introduce it again.

One group needed no amendment to be freed relief from the crippling strictures imposed by the state. Sex of offenders were excluded in the original bill and in the revised Uniform Law Commission's model legislation as which it is based. By now it's pretty clear that by not protecting this community, it puts registrants and their families at risk of harassment and vigilantism.

So it's additionally galling that the amended law also removes one of the small measures that some Vermont legislators have safeguarded as the Sex Offender Registry has grown in size and scope. Vermont has explicitly prohibited the electronic posting of sex offender addresses on online Sex Offender Registry.

Until now. Now, along with names, physical descriptions, photographs, county residence and numerous other details, the state will post the exact addresses of certain sex offenders.

I am told this change simply is not a technical error — some how the bill of agreed-upon legislation never got written into statute in 2009. That section of the law now stipulates that the Department of Public Safety

must possess the legislature with a clear audit of the online registry before having anyone's address. A 2010 review by the state auditor found the registry 95% up with errors. That leaves my son's day, however. Now enforcement is improving accuracy, and a clean audit is expected soon.

It's an evolutionary. A law that begins to repair some of the damage inflicted by a regime of perpetual punishment is leading our more generous to state, under who already low under restrictions for more offenses than those imposed on murderers.

As I have written before, research shows that sex offenders registration does not improve public safety or reduce recidivism, which is already low among this group. Public safety is not enhanced by locking up offenders who not only does not protect this community, it puts registrants and their families at risk of harassment and vigilantism.

Indeed, last week in South Carolina, while Vermont's judiciary considered



THE STATE SETS UP A NET OF MONOFILAMENT LINE THAT NO ONE CAN SEE BUT THAT SEPARATES EX-OFFENDERS FROM LIVING A NORMAL LIFE.

RICHARD CASSIDY

were negotiating that last amendment, Jeremy and Christine Meadly — he with "Sisterhead" tattooed across his throat, she coyly telling reporters her marriage was a "fairy-tale" romance — pled guilty to the murder of regional sex offender Charles Parker and his wife, Gretchen.

Being led to the police car to begin her life sentence, Christine shouted, "Killing that pedophile was the best day of my life!" She'd gladly do it again, she added. And she almost got to when Christine and Jeremy were apprehended, he had the name of his next intended victim written on an envelope.

He also had the address, which appeared in the South Carolina Sex Offender Registry.

Besides age, the American person was reformed from the penitentiary — where congenital sinners went to repent and/or re-t — to the "correctional" facility. The latter seemed to carry out the philosophy that wrongdoers were not fundamentally evil but could be rehabilitated to assume productive lives. Today's "correction" system has been abandoning that vision of rehabilitation — cutting work, education and arts programs, imprisoning more juveniles and locking inmates in solitary confinement — even though every warden and judge knows that most inmates will eventually get out.

Meanwhile, the impenetrable web of post-penalty restrictions fulfills the bleak old prophecy that criminals are sinners, and sinners, by nature, will sin again — so why waste time and money trying to remake them?

Vermont, as the first state to enact a comprehensive Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act, is expanding its progressive policies of treating criminal offenders as what they also are — fathers, sons, lovers, aunts, uncles, workers and community members. Champions of the law such as its lead sponsor House Judiciary Committee clerk Clark Smoak (D-Burlington), hope that the laws will make Castor's "net of nonfrivolous law" visible to policy makers, judges and citizens and inspire us to begin unravelling it, strand by strand.

It's a shame that, at the same time, the state might be exposing some offenders, Vermont's Charles Parkers, to the ultimate collective punishment. The

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 Sweet Whole Seedless Watermelon	4.99	1 in. melon	4.99
 4 lb. 16 oz. Various Lemons Hannaford Lemons	99¢	1 lb.	99¢

16 oz.
Select Varieties
my essentials
Cheese
Singles. **188**
1 kg **188**

150 g.
Select Varieties
Lay's
Potato Chips **2/54**
2 kg **400**

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INFO

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Reel Pleasures

The Sunset Drive-In keeps "real" film alive — onscreen and in a new movie-themed inn

BY KEN PICARD

Peter Handy sits in the tub of his red Dodge Ram pickup with a remote control in hand and a big smile on his face. About two months ago, workers installed a new LED marquee just west of his Sunset Drive-In in Colchester. Handy, who renovated the marquee last week and turned it on for the public to see in his hotel on Christmas morning, eager to show off its many features. With the touch of a button, he can make his flesh, crivel and perform other eye-macking tricks.

Handy's decoding new toy wasn't as useful for the benefit of moviegoers — at least, not directly. The marquee's main purpose is to advertise the Starlight Inn, the new movie-themed motel that Handy built under the year's adjustment to the 250-car drive-in. The Starlight opened on Friday night, May 16, and filled its capacity its first weekend.

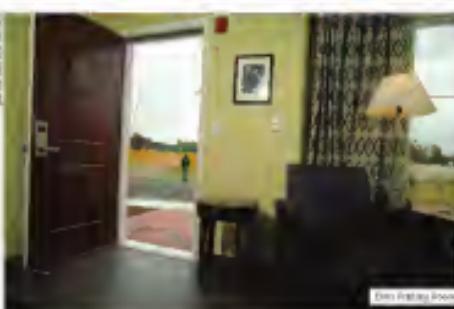
Handy, an unabashed film buff and admirer of glitz resorts and rooms, says his desire to realize his dream of opening his own hotel to pay tribute to classic Hollywood movies and actors. The 11-room Starlight Inn, whose slogan is "Sleeping with the stars, under the stars," is the realization of that dream.

It's also Handy's survival plan in the face of potential digital destruction.

Several years ago, the major Hollywood studios informed theater owners around the country that they would begin phasing out the release of motion pictures on 35-millimeter film and replace them with digital files by the end of 2013.

Although the 2013 digital deadline came and went, and film prints remain available through this summer, the writing is on the wall. "Real" film will soon be history. In December, Jameson Pictures announced that *Assassination 2: The Legend Continues* would be its last full-length feature released on film stock. The *Los Angeles Times* reported early this year that Paramount's *The Wolf of Wall Street* was its first major motion picture released solely in digital format. Other studios are expected to follow suit, especially since filmmaker Quentin Tarantino's *Inglourious Basterds* is already considered one of the most expensive and difficult to find.

It's no mystery why the studios are switching to digital. Not only does the format offer viewers higher-fidelity sound and images, as well as better features such as 3-D and IMAX, it saves the studios lots of money. According to an April 2013



Peter Handy's room



story in *LA Week*, it costs the studios about \$1,000 to print each copy of a movie and ship it to exhibitors in small batches. Printing and transporting that same film on a digital hard drive costs just \$50.

For the large, corporate-owned movie chains that can easily afford the transition from film to digital, it's a welcome improvement — a way of getting more seats into theaters that, when it comes to small, independent theaters, especially family owned, drives them all their money nationally, the \$40,000 plus per screen cost of upgrading their projectors, ticketing and sound systems threatens to drive many out of business. That's the potential fate of the Sunset and Vermont's three other drive-ins, all of which are struggling to stay in through the end of 2013 (see sidebar).

I think our odds of staying open now are better than ever in the face of this digital armageddon.

—Peter Handy

Handy's parents, Ernest and Dorothy Handy, bought the Sunset from a developer in 1949 and ran it until their retirement in 1979. Peter started working there at age 8. Now he bears the expense of upgrading not on a half-acre screen and projection booth, the latter of which must be climate controlled to protect the sensitive, high-tech equipment from the elements year round.

Does that mean the sun will set on the sunset for the last time in 2013?

"Not on my watch," says Handy. "The Starlight Inn will support the drive-in and the two will playtime each other. So I think our odds of staying open are better than ever in the face of this digital Armageddon."

To prove his point, Handy has thrown considerable time, effort and cash into making the Starlight Inn a money-making attraction in its own right, especially for drive-in moviegoers. Some travel long distances to visit the Sunset, now in its 66th year.

Unlike those of other resorts and towns, rooms in the Starlight resort stand-and-hold names after legends of the silver screen, such as Marilyn Monroe, John Wayne, Robert Redford, Paul Newman, Julia Roberts, Brad Pitt and Ashton Kutcher. On such doors hangs a replica of the stars' stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Standy even had the sidewalk leading to such rooms painted to resemble a red carpet.

Rock rooms hold original movie posters, photos and bios of the film legends. For example, the film *Presley* features an original framed poster from the 1956 musical *King Creole*, a 1958 "Milk Love" calendar poster, a like-new endorsed version of Presley, an avocet roost, a 56-inch television and, naturally, a long-wire grill.

Likewise, the Newman and Redford rooms sport a poster from 1969's *Butch*.

Those who don't want to leave their rooms, each one offers views of several down-the-canyon and is outfitted with high-fidelity radios to pick up the theater's FM signal. For the lights-down effect, there are dimmer switches beside each bed.

"Look at that view," Handly says, pointing out the large window at the theater, which is visible from the Kiva. Presley Room. "That view is for the King! That's three times better than the view I've had in my box office for 40 years."

Handly won't reveal exactly how much the Starlight has set him back. "It's still a work in progress," he says. "To be sure, we haven't let the bottom out." Clearly, on having a business loan for a year-round resort in Chittenden County, where property taxes are the highest in Vermont, is far easier than going one to upgrade the pro-



Peter Tugay

IS IT EASY TO RISING OR FALL IN VERMONT'S SKI INDUSTRY?

When Peter Tugay, owner of the 400-unit *Resorts at the Mountain* in Lincoln, first thought about converting his 100-year-old ski area to digital, he didn't hesitate before answering:

"My planes are for gas lines," he says, in a deadpan tone.

In reality, Tugay is the first of Vermont's four other ski areas to make the switch to digital. As of present, Tugay expects to have his new digital payment system up and running by the end of December of this year. Stowe's Big Mountain, the first resort around the state to install a digital system, was originally designed to avoid cash. In February, Stowe says, the resort's management team decided to switch to digital after consulting with a digital payment consultant.

And more recently, it was for a similar reason. "They saw what it does for business and gave it to us," says Tugay, referring to the new digital payment system at the resort.

In making the switch to digital, Tugay has joined a growing list of Vermont's 100-plus ski areas that have converted to digital payment systems. The campaign, which began in 2009 and has since raised \$17 million, is the largest digital conversion in the country.

According to Tugay, estimates the campaign will add \$10 million to the digital conversion in 2010. "We've already pledged to have 100 percent digital by 2012," he says.

Consequently, the campaign is complete and paid off. Tugay adds, "We will not need to

keep a lot of cash on hand, which is a huge benefit." You have to keep a lot of cash on hand, which is a huge benefit.

According to Tugay, the campaign has been a success. "It's been a great success," he says. "You have to keep a lot of cash on hand, which is a huge benefit.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF RESORTS AT THE MOUNTAIN

Castro and the *Residence Inn*, which draws the movie sets, and shortlist of both actors. The Tom Cruise Room includes a poster from *Jerry Maguire* and stats from *Cocktail* — the night we caught for gloriously gaudy gaudiness.

Only the VIP Hollywood Room isn't named after a specific movie legend or Hollywood staple. The room's biggest and present lodging (\$299 a night on one early June weekend), it's built like a large living room with a media center, TV, a keg-tap bar and an en suite large bathroom — including a whirlpool tub and oversized walk-in shower.

The inn's six dormers have digital lights that flick on at night and change colors. Handly will soon have a program he can use to sync their blushing to movie soundtracks — like *Class Reunion* or *The Third Kind*, he says. All of Handly's guests receive complimentary admission to the drive-in during their stay. And, for

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The Good Life

Comedian Tig Notaro talks about fame and cancer in advance of her appearance at the Green Mountain Comedy Festival.

ANSWER

Comedy



There are bad times in life. And then there's what comedian Tig Notaro went through over a four-month span in early 2012:

First, she got pneumonia. Shortly after, she contracted a potentially deadly illness called Clostridium difficile, an infection in which bacteria essentially eat away at the colon lining. She spent a week in the hospital and lost 20 pounds from her already slender frame. Not long after she was released, Nitazoxane's mother died in a freak accident. And soon after that, she and her brother developed leukemia.

Then she was diagnosed with bilateral breast cancer. About a week after the initial diagnosis in August 2012, Moran appeared at the famed Los Angeles comedy club Largo, the *stand-up* and *greatest* the typical welcoming applause of the crowd like any of about a thousand comedians had before her. But not once.

"Thank you, thank you," she said breathily. "I have cancer, thank you. I have cancer, really. Thank you."

great moments in the history of standup comedy. It's a gut-wrenching, heartbreaking 30 minutes of standup comedy, days before it, it's *subversive and uncomfor-*
table, a deeply personal expression from a comedian who is better known for dry, observational comedy.

It's also 2010 now.

The next day, comedian Lewis Black tweeted, "In 17 years doing this, I've seen a handful of truly great, inspired standup sets. One was Big Natura last night [at Comedy Central]."

C.R. convinced a reluctant *Nature* to make the recording of that set available on its website. It went practically overnight, selling more than 180,000 copies, and was the best-selling comedy album of 2012. Last year, it was physically packaged as *Nature's* second album, *done* — the verb, not the adjective — and scored a 2014 Grammy nomination for Best Comedy Album.

Notes last to comedian Kathy Griffin. But, as she points out in a recent phone interview with *Entertainment Weekly*, now that she's cancer-free she's a woman something far more valuable than a little gold silhouette.

"She garners Grammy Tigray life," she says. "This year *Nature* can be seen in three formats: *Nature* Be in the World," shot/redux with Lynn Phillips and Wolf of *Science* with Elizabeth Tracy. The course has several new projects in the works, including a short-form series, *Know Your Roots*, in which she performs the homes of plants, and an autobiographical book about her life four miles from 7702 Nellis, having regularly drawn bigger crowds than ever. She's become a darling of National Public Radio and last night

In short, life is pretty good for Motaro right now. And as crazy as her home with cancer was, she says she wouldn't change a thing.

"I don't want to go through it again," she told *Woman's Day*. Allen is a 2010 peace for *Buzzfeed*: "But every-
thing leads you to where you are. I really can't believe
I am good at this."

In advance of her two Green Mountain Comedy Festival shows at the First Unitarian Universalist Society in Burlington on Saturday, May 24, here is the rest of our interview with Tig Notaro.

SEVEN DAYS: What went through your mind after you opened by telling the crowd at Lango you had cancer?

SHE GOT HER GRAMMY. I GOT MY LIFE.

TIG NOTARO

TIG NOTARO: I was definitely scared. I was nervous. There were so many things. I was feeling emotional still. I could sense from the room that they thought it was a joke and were trying to figure out where I was going with that. I was trying to deliver it in a similar way as when comedians come out, like, "How's everybody doing? What's drinking tonight? Any birthdays? I have cancer."

SD: That's what's striking about your opening and the audience reaction. If that was just a joke, it would have been a pretty cruel joke, which is certainly not your style.

TN Yeah. I was concerned about opening the show with that because of the time between them thinking I was being mean or hurtful to the time that I could relieve everyone... not relieve, but to say, "Oh, don't worry. I have cancer. I'm not making fun of you or your loved ones." I was worried about it. Then I had the realization that I have cancer, so I can make this joke.

SD: You can feel that in the recording, how the audience starts to come around and there's this sense of tension and laughter.

TN Definitely. I think you can feel that throughout the show, the roller coaster that they're on and that I am. I've only listened to the album once. Even my affer alter, Good One, I've only listened twice. Neither of them interests me. But when I listened to Live, it still makes me laugh.

SD: The first time I heard it, it reminded me of a time I was working at a well-to-do old folks home waiting tables in their restaurant-cafeteria thing. My first day, I greeted a table and asked how everyone was doing. And this garranteed little old man kind of craned his head and said, "I'm dying. How are you?"

TN [Laughs] That's us, as funny.

SD: It was horrifying at the time and her wife kind of cracked her. Not in her hilarious in retrospect.

TN That's really funny. "I'm dying. How are you?" I actually had that moment before the album, after the CD and I had lost all this weight. When the X-ray

technician asked how I had such a flat stomach, I said, "Oh, I'm dying. That's how I keep it up from this."

SD: It's a hell of a diet plan. After the *Laughs* show joking about cancer and dying became part of your act and figured prominently in your podcast: [Professor Blabstot]. It clearly resonated with audiences. But was there making light of the disease ever difficult for your close friends and family?

TN I didn't hear anything about that from friends or family that it wasn't funny or not to joke about it. I was more concerned with how my stepmother was going to respond when I was talking about my mother on the CD and making jokes about the fractures that came after she died. It's very dark and hard. I wasn't sure if I would think it was inappropriate. It's this whole problem with comedy at times of being "too soon." But he didn't feel that way at all. I wasn't concerned about what my brother would think. I know he'd support whatever I did. But my whole dad had bad support from my stepmother, which was why I was concerned when the obituaries came out. But it turned out that he was totally supportive. It was a turning point, and he started taking more of an interest in me.

SD: What was your reaction when the record was nominated for a Grammy?

TN There was a surreal element to it, because it's the Grammys. And it's also surreal in that it was not my thing. I was working towards it. I was just doing a show and struggling in life.

SD: You went to the ceremony, right?

TN Yeah. I presented a few awards at the Grammys. One of them was to Steve Martin and Edie Brickell for an American song or album of the year or something. But that was a moment that my 60- or 70-year-old self would not have believed, just because I was such a huge fan of both of them. And there they are walking up to the stage toward me, and I'm handing them a Grammy Award.

SD: Were you disappointed to level?

TN [Laughs] Kathy Griffin ended up winning, and I think she'd released, like, six or seven albums in a new tryout to get a Grammy. And I told my girlfriend, who was so irritated when I lost, [Kathy Griffin] wanted that so desperately. I didn't feel bad losing. I didn't have any

attachment to it. And after Kathy won, I congratulated her, and my girlfriend and I went to the after-party and haven't thought about it since. If I had put out an album I really wanted to be nominated and hoped it won, I might feel differently. But I can't imagine ever releasing an album and having that sort of drive for it.

SD: So Kathy Griffin is sort of like the Susan Lucci of comedy Grammys?

TN I guess so. I'm happy for her. She got her Grammy to prove my life. I'm alive, so a Grammy is just a cherry on top to me.

SD: Has the success of *Live* and becoming more famous changed your life in any significant ways?

TN Not really. I'm certainly more well-known and there's higher attendance of my shows and I'm making more money. But I don't think my life looks any different from what it did 10 years ago. Some of the projects are more high profile. But it's not like I can't walk out of my house.

SD: I spoke with Hanabusa it was recently and asked her a similar question. He told me he can still go to the grocery store, but that he's "bar famous" [strunk people know him].

TN [Laughs] Yeah. I don't hang out in bars, so maybe I'm not famous and I don't even know it. Maybe I'm more famous than I even realize. Maybe I should go somewhere more.

SD: You're working on a book. How is that writing process different than writing comedy?

TN The detail is so specific to comedy. You have to draw things out so much more than in anything I've done. Writing jokes and telling stories in such small storytelling. I'm writing [the book] about the four months when my life fell apart. But it's also writing in my life now that everything's OK. And it's also writing in my childhood and who my mother was and giving some backstory. It's a real undertaking and a challenge, but I'm really enjoying it and feel like I would like to continue to write books. QD

INFO

10th Annual Conference on the Green Mountain Comedy Festival, an Saturday May 24. 8:30 a.m. at the First Unitarian Universalist Society in Burlington, \$25. greenmountaincomedy.com

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Running Tally

Where do Burlington runners like to run? The app knows...

BY ANDREA SIEGEL

With the Vermont City Marathon coming up this weekend, lots of runners have been pounding the pavement around Burlington lately. Not all of them plan to compete, of course — for some it's just a free, warm-weather fitness plan. But plenty of runners are keeping track of and sharing their times and other data anyway.

Running is no longer just a solo endeavor. With the help of smartphones and GPS watches, people can track their running and share their progress with the world. That means we can look at where people are running, too. This map of popular running routes in the Burlington area uses data from RunKeeper, a GPS mapping app. The more circumlocution appears in darker colors, the lighter ones were less traveled. To make this infographic, we pulled 479 uncorrected routes centered in Burlington and averaged them.

Great. Runners can use other GPS apps to track and share their runs, and not everyone shares their running info more publicly, so this map represents only a portion of local running routes and its data are not statistically significant. ☐



Road to Recovery

One runner at Burlington's marathon this weekend will be coming from way behind

BY SARAH STAFF



You never get sick — ever since you began running regularly three years ago, dropping 75 pounds and cutting out chips and desserts, you've been healthy as a horse — but suddenly, at the calendar flip to 2008, you have this mysterious cold. You get right outside, free, you can't shake it.

Eventually, you get better, so you decide to go for a five-mile run on Underhill's Iron Sentinel Road near your house. Despite the cold, you're happy; you're happy to be outside again. But you feel unusually weak.

You won't forget that man, it's the last one you'll do for months. Because on Monday, January 6, the headache begins.

It only gets worse the next day — and it's accompanied by a strange tingling in your toes.

By midweek, you're really losing power. You're so weak that you have to lean on your 7-year-old daughter's shoulder when standing up. By Friday, you're unable to use the bathroom on your own; he's a spoon to get food out your mouth, or walk without pushing a chair across the floor. Your wife has to help you do all that stuff, and she's becoming as terrified as you are. You call your doctor, who makes you see the emergency room at Fletcher Allen Health Care. You remain there for five days, completely paralyzed.

Sound like a nightmare? It was — but it actually happened to Will Billings, a 45-year-old employee of Green Mountain Coffee, and father of two. Happily, not only has he since recovered, but he's running half of the KeyBank Vermont City Marathon & Relay this Sunday.

What went so terribly wrong, and how did he get better? During a recent 30-mile run along the Burlington Bike Path with his son, he suffered a massive stroke.

The paralysis, he reveals, was a sole effect of Guillain-Barré syndrome, an immune disorder that attacks the central nervous system. It's rare, affecting just

one in 100,000 people per year, and can be triggered by a viral or bacterial infection, or even a vaccination. And it keeps Billings had a fatal shot right around the time he came down with that cold. He still isn't sure whether it was the infection or the shot that began shutting down his body.

Left unopposed, Guillain-Barré can cause permanent paralysis and death, but Billings is as lucky enough to be seeing a doctor who had an epiphany in the middle of the night. "It was just like an episode of 'House,'" says Billings, referring to the television medical drama featuring a brilliant but early diagnostician.

On that Friday in January, he checked into Fletcher Allen's emergency room for a lumbar puncture to confirm the diagnosis.

"It's kind of a weird name, 'Guillain-Barré,'" Billings says. "But at first it was a huge relief once we got into the hospital and got the diagnosis and knew that it wouldn't be fatal because of my age and the fact that I was in decent physical shape."

Billings began undergoing a five-day treatment that would further knock down his immune system before he could start to recover. "I was still losing power," he recalls.

As his stalled body avoided the prep-start, his mind raced. Though Guillain-Barré is fatal in just 5 percent of cases, long-term side effects for survivors can include residual weakness, atrophy, and loss of strength and endurance. "I thought, What does this mean for me, my job, my family?" Billings says. "Do we never? How soon I'm going to manage all the issues and all that? Of course, I don't think I'm going to die, that's great news, but how long is it going to take me to fully recover, and will I fully recover?"

The smallest things became the most frustrating. "I couldn't even roll myself over in bed," says Billings. "I'm independent. I don't like to ask for help. To ring the nurse to help you roll over in bed is pretty humbling."

So was sharing a room with a 90-year-old stroke victim, and needing to be strapped to a torso-like device by a physical therapist to get out of bed. Unable to sleep, Billings was insomniac. His digestive system had shut down, leaving him with no appetite, and one of the few sensations he had was "increasing back pain."

Making his stay somewhat more bearable were the visitors. Billings' 8-year-old daughter made a card for his elderly roommate, who had no visitors of his own. Also a kind soul, Billings' wife, parents and in-laws, and his running brother, Mike, who had to keep him spirits up by jok ing about sponge baths.

Still, "The kids were already very scared going into the room and seeing me hooked up to a thousand machines," remembers Billings, who also lost control of one side of his face. "When my walk was that he pockmarked, and my mom was really upset when she saw me."

Billings says he tried to be "as positive as possible about the process" — which included a high-dose immunoglobulin treatment deferred intentionally to speed recovery. He began to notice that he could move his right leg 20 inches, a small improvement that gave him hope.

After five days at Fletcher Allen, Billings was transferred to Fanny Allen, where he was told he would stay for two months of rehabilitation with a physical therapist and occupational therapist. "But I was showing daily progress, so I negotiated a way out after a week and a half," says Billings, who explained to his caregivers that he had "everything he needed to survive" on the main level of his Underhill home. He was discharged with a wheelchair and walker in January 2013.

As the next month progressed, he was able to stand, and then walk, and then drive and even travel for business. But it wasn't until Billings' wife was away for a three-week vacation that he felt somewhat normal again. "Running is so important part of my life, as it reduces stress, offers time alone to recharge my batteries and think creatively," he explains.

It's not unusual for far people with such illnesses to rebound from paralysis and return to their previous level of athletic activity, according to Massachusetts-based neurologist and Guillain-Barré authority Peter Lieberman. "I had one patient who made it to the Whistlers [mountain tournament] one year after illness," he says by phone, "and another who ran a full marathon two years after diagnosis."

After racing 100 miles four months after being paralysed, a remarkable by any standards. Though Billings now admits to feeling stiff sometimes, and a bit apprehensive about a training regimen that has been less intense than usual — about 20 miles per week — he was determined to start setting running goals once he could put one foot in front of the other. In addition to this weekend's race, Billings has set his sights on July's Mad Marathon in Winooski, the New Balance Falmouth Road Race in Massachusetts in August and the Cape Cod Marathon in October.

But first up is the Vermont City Marathon. "It's one of the most popular and best-managed local events," Billings says. "While I've historically focused on [marathon] time, my goal this year is to finish strong and have a great time."

INFO

Kyleann Hermann, City Marathon & Relay Sunday May 26 beginning at 7 a.m. in Burlington. Registration is closed. Interer runners and spectators are welcome. vermontcitymarathon.com

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Summer Sounds

Listen up for Vermont's outdoor music festivals

BY DAM BELL ES

Summer in Vermont is kind of like a rubber band: Over the winter, the tension and anticipation of warmer times to come build as the cold stretches on. Then, just like that, there's a release, and the state's shortest season seems to fly by in the blink of an eye.

Because the season is so short and sweet, we take our summer diversions pretty seriously and crisscross as much as these blizzards do each month as we can. That approach extends to our number of recreational pursuits, but especially applies to music. From early June through September, there's hardly a weekend without at least one outdoor music festival — and often several are happening.

2014 is no exception. This summer's calendar is chock full of festivals large and small, offering a cross-section of styles and genres to suit virtually any musical taste. What follows is a primer on some of the festivals that will provide the soundtrack to that summer in Vermont.

Ben & Jerry's Concerts on the Green, Shelburne, July 16-19, 2014, \$15-\$25, www.benjerry.com

The long-running Concerts on the Green series' Shelburne Museum is something like Vermont's answer to Tanglewood, only without the classical music. Instead of Mozart, Beethoven and Tchaik, visitors to the museum's pastoral lawn will be treated to the contemporary sounds of folk and crossover Ray LaMontagne with Jason Isbell and the New South (May 24), blues rockers John Hiatt and the Robert Cray Band (July 16), mandolin star Chris Thile's reformed old band Nickel Creek (July 25), and pop/bluegrass darlings Old Crow Medicine Show with Bruce Hornsby and the Balfa Brothers (July 26). benjerry.com/concerts

Burlington Discover Jazz Festival, www.burlingtonguitar.com, July 30 to Aug. 10, \$15-\$30 to \$100

The state's largest and most prestigious music festival needs little introduction. For more than 30 years, the Burlington Discover Jazz Festival has吸引ed the most respected and prestigious jazz festivals in the country. For 10 days, the Queen City becomes a virtual jazz hub, with all manner of sounds — jazz and otherwise — emanating from convention nightclubs and stages large and small. This year's headliners include Tom Harrell, Jason Palmer, Big Chief Donald Harrison, Ben Gartman and Boney Mixture, Regine Carter, and Eddie Henderson. burlingtonguitar.com

SolarFest,

Ferg Eb-ml-Nat Farm, solarfest.org, July 18 to 20

SolarFest at the Ferg Eb-ml-Nat Farm is something more than just a music festival. Reaching its 20th year, the three-day party is also an exposition and celebration of sustainable living practices. And what better way to educate yourself on the latest in green groove and gadgetry than to a soundcheck from the likes of Banks, the Dirty Dozen Brass Band, Earthbound Jones and Wapiti Speed? solarfest.org

and the Rest Coast. Those include Half Past Human, Industrial Response, King Parrot, Red Squash McBrown and headliner Dragon's Roar. Proceeds from the festival benefit the Sunapee Family Resource Center in Sunapee and the Music Empowers Foundation, a national organization that helps bring music education to underprivileged kids. solarfest.org

The Manifestivus, www.manifestivus.org, www.manifestivus.org, July 25 to 27

For 10 years now, Manifestivus on Cape Cod has built itself into a "local fest with a global vibe." This year that worldy audience takes a step back with a Latin-themed first dubbed "La Fiesta Libre." Our Spanish is rusty, but that roughly translates to a lineup of bands and DJs who cross sounds of the border sounds with more northernly purists, including Grammy-nominated Latin band Los Lobos, jazz trumpeter Charles Linton, and jazz funk fusion band the 8th Floor. From the local scene, special appearances from Latin jambon Afrique, Afrofunk outfit Afri-VT, modern

Jam Band. And that's just the tip of the iceberg: 100+ numerous performances of local, national and international acts descend on Burlington to get our jazz bands swingin'. benjerry.com/concerts

Rattling Brook Bluegrass Festival, www.rattlingbrook.com, July 26-27, www.rattlingbrook.com

Now in its 30th year, the tiny Rattling Brook Bluegrass Festival is among the longest running musical events in Vermont. This one-day headlining — or is it a headcount — will feature four local picking talents, including the Reunion Band, Bob Anon & Company's Crossing, Big Spike Morgan, Carolyn Morrissey's Troubadours, the Wrenbenders and the Modern Grass Quintet. Also, we're told, something French from. Check outlook for the Rattling Brook Bluegrass Fest web page.

The Frendly Gathering, www.frendlygathering.com, www.frendlygathering.com, June 27 and 28

The Frendly Gathering is a festival started by a group of you and I who also who love by the cheeky motto "There is no I in friends." There is, however, an I in Dale Spurz, Bear Tick and Lake Street Diner, all of whom will take the stage at this year's fest. There's no Tom Shady Davies, but he'll be there, too, along with an eclectic mix of regional and local bands and DJs. They include the likes of Twiddle, Kari Wright & the Indianapolis Steel Band, Jeneta, Gold Town, Queen Luv and Disco Mountain, among many others. frendlygathering.com



Ben & Jerry's Concerts on the Green



Greg Gruen photo, courtesy of Burlington Jazz Festival



Lake Champlain Maritime Festival performers at Grand Pointe Bar

Electric Sixties and all-girl rockabilly favorites Sandy Betty, among others (continued on page 2)

The Precipice: A 2-Day Happening, BURLINGTON COLLEGE, AUGUST 1 AND 2

At press time, many details about this year's Precipice were unavailable, but we know from chattering up sources that the former "3 Day Happening" is indeed happening, and we're happy about that. This year it will be a slightly slimmer down, two day fest. Last year, the festival moved from the Extravaganza to a previously underutilized field behind Burlington College on North Avenue. And it was magical. Curated by the folks from Radio Barn, those three days in late July arguably made for the most comprehensive and wonderful show case of the local scene we saw all year. We expect more of the same this time around in early August. Stay tuned. facebook.com/theresapic/

The Valley Stage Music Festival, BLACKBIRD SWING, HUNTINGTON, AUGUST 9

Fueled by a renewable-energy source courtesy of Green Mountain Power, the Valley Stage MusicFest in Huntington is yet another local event with ideals as lofty as the high harmonies emanating from the stage. The ninth annual VSMF has family friendly atmosphere, tasty food and great, cozy tunes — this year from the Belafonians, Hot Pursuit, the Crunchy Women Boys, Cricket Isha and headliners the Deadly Gendersmen. valleystagevt.com

Lake Champlain Maritime Festival, WATERFRONT PARK, BURLINGTON, AUGUST 7 TO 10

Celebrating the area's rich nautical heritage, the Lake Champlain Maritime Festival is a sprawling, and mostly free, weekend-long event highlighted by nautical boating demonstrations and enthusiasm along Burlington's waterfront

It also boasts some excellent music when the sun goes down. This year's lineup includes indie guitars Murphy's McGee (August 7), punk rockers the Offspring, Red Hot Chili Peppers and the Vandals (August 8), pop Americana favorites the Avett Brothers (August 9), and legendary blues guitarist Buddy Guy (continued on page 2)

Vermont Music Festival, LARTEAU FARM, WATKINSFIELD, AUGUST 23

The Vermont Music Festival is a music festival. In Vermont. Grade racing aside, the daylong fest at Larneau Farm in Watkinstield has become one of the most enjoyable and down-home events of the summer, featuring great food, a White Hall tournament and, of course, local music, including an epic late-night acoustic jam session. The lineup for this year's festival had yet to be announced at press time. Given that past years have seen the likes of New Thang, Alvvays, Sandy Betty, Tommy Fletcher, the Ramone Brothers, Abby Jean and Afrique, it's safe bet that the fifth annual Vermont Music Festival will offer plenty of locavore treats for the ears. vtmusicfestival.com

Grand Point North, WATERFRONT PARK, BURLINGTON, SEPTEMBER 13 AND 14

In Vermont, summer isn't over until George Porter and the Nocturnals say it is. That's just the kind of party the state's highest-profile rock dive has. So for the past few years, the band's rag tag bluegrass at Waterfront Park in Burlington has served as an unofficial封神 song to Vermont's shortest season. And what a bluegrass it is, featuring a mix of top-notch national talent playing alongside some of the best local acts on the forbidding main stages. This year, headliners include Lake Street Dive, Dr. John, the War on Drugs and Transplant by Tuxedo. They'll be joined by a slew of locals such as Snarky Andersen, Lowell Thompson, Gold Town, the High Rollers, Carolina Rose and Valentine. grandpointnorth.com



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Riding High

Vermont cycling enthusiasts get new tours, trails and two-wheelers

BY KEVIN J. KERKELAY



Vermont cyclists have a host of innovations to enjoy and anticipate on the peak pedaling seasons, which range from roughly Memorial Day to Columbus Day. They'll also have to contend with many of the same dangers and limitations that have shrouded biking in the state.

With a major and a public works director committed to improving and expanding cycling options, Burlington appears to be setting the pace among Vermont's cities in encouraging residents to get out and ride. City officials and partner groups are marshaling their efforts with a "Go for Gold" campaign intended to earn Burlington recognition as one of the best cycling cities in the country. Currently Vermont has silver status, a distinction granted by the Walk-Friendly Communities Program, based

on the quality of its walking and biking infrastructure.

As an infrastructure expansion of that ambition, work will soon start on reconstructing the most heavily used portion of the waterfront bike path. In addition, Local Motion's bike ferry linking Burlington and Colchester with the Champlain Islands will operate seven days a week from mid-June to Labor Day, with weekend service starting May 24 and running until October.

And who says cycling has to be orderly and adult? Not the Burlington Bike Party, a punkish group that gathers in City Hall Park at 200 p.m. on the last Friday of each month through September. Instead of having fun on new wheels, these enthusiasts embark on a chaotic, slow-paced, two-hour ride around town, with participants encouraged to wear

costumes and make noise. Each party has a different route and theme. On Friday, May 30, the theme is "Brewers."

Despite these and other initiatives, Burlington cycling activists don't seem to be in a congratulatory mood. "Go for Gold," they caution, should be viewed as "a measure, not a goal," because the city will need to establish numerous improvements, particularly regarding safety, for many years to come.

Actual or perceived danger is the chief deterrent to cycling, and also to walking, notes the Burlington Walk/Bike Council, an all-volunteer policy advocacy group. "None of the most important corridors and routes in Burlington do not feel safe to ride for most people," the council declared in a recently adopted statement on "Go for Gold" priorities.



Closing gaps in the city's array of cycling paths would be an especially effective safety measure. Burlington has "separated paths of good building infrastructure," observes Local Motion director Emily Bisselker. "But there's no real network. We've got to go from the dots and dashes of Morse code to a true locational diagram."

The strong commitment to cycling was set by Mayor Mira Wittenberg and Public Works Chief Chapin Spencer (the previous director of Local Motion) suggest that "we've got the willingness in place and the right individuals in place." Bisselker adds, "But we need broad public support for this to actually happen."

Spencer doesn't disagree. "We have a decent foundation in place and some ambitious plans," he says, while acknowledging that the city faces tough challenges in becoming friendlier to bikers. "New England has narrow streets, and it's not easy to accommodate all users comfortably," Spencer notes.

Our area has seen plenty of other developments of late — regarding not only cycling infrastructure but cycles themselves. Here's a sampling.

Trails

Last Saturday, Rutland celebrated the opening of a 5-kilometer multi-use hiking route from the city's 350-acre Pine Hill Park to Proctor. It took nearly eight years to get the landowner permission and to make the physical changes needed to complete the carriage trail, says Shelly Lutz, one of the coordinators of the volunteer-powered effort. Owing to the route's 500-foot gain in elevation, casual cyclists probably wouldn't enjoy a spin along these old logging roads but there are scenic compensation. Lutz notes a keener sense of being with wildlife and a reservoir suitable for digging.

The Middle City hopes to add an other, easier trail in the next few years. The 10-foot-wide, paved Rutland Creek Path is planned to run three miles through the city along the Ruts and Other Creek. The first segment opened in 2010.

Riding High



years ago, with the second of five due to be completed this summer.

A long-planned bike path along the Barr Montpelier Road has been slow to take shape, reports Nancy Schutte, director of the Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition. But some progress has been occurring. Construction on part of the path could begin next year, Schutte says.

Cycle trail advocates who dream big should plan to take part in a June 22 tour starting at MtnBike Works in Stow Montpelier. It's a fundraiser for the Cross Vermont Trail, as envisioned 10 years ago connecting towns in the north-central portion of the state, from Lake Champlain to the Connecticut River. About a third of the trail is complete and

open to riders and hikers. Supporters describe the route along the Winooski and Bella rivers as a patchwork quilt that will link together many different pieces.

Back in Burlington, a study is under way that associates converting North Avenue into a "complete street" — meaning redesigning it to better accommodate cyclists and pedestrians and to enhance motorists' safety. A similar assessment is expected to start soon on the downtown sections of North and South Winooski avenues, regarded by many urban riders as the most dangerous streets in Burlington.

Hope for the endlessly delayed Champlain Parkway still lack adequate resources for pedestrians and cyclists, according to the Walk/Bike Council. The group plans in its recent statement on "the for child" priorities that it can perks such improvements to be formalized soon.

Tours

Several national companies organize cycling tours in various parts of Vermont. For a day-long ride with dinner, house rents, check out the offerings of Richmond-based POMO (Power of Mind Guidance) and VBT (formerly Vermont Bicycle Tours), which will operate from offices in Berlin after 43 years in business.

Local Motion organizes a four-day "Vermontest" trip from Burlington to Montreal, starting May 29. It's priced as a fundraiser for Local Motion, with the \$1,095 per-person cost covering three nights' lodging, some meals and

transportation back to Burlington. The entry fee for the June 1 Tour de Pla de Montebello is included, as well.

The 30th edition of the Tour de Pla is the culmination of a week-long biking festival called Giro Bike Montreal. Starting May 28 with the 100- or 70-kilometer Metropolitan Challenge, the series of events includes the 20-kilometer Tour de Pla that starts at 8:00 p.m. on May 30.

What accounts for Montebello's status as, arguably, the best cycling city in North America? "It has been built on a walkable village," says Joelle Savoie, director of Villa Quatre Rivières et Voyages. "It just kept getting bigger and bigger."

Mountain biking

Both regional chapters around the state have launched a coordinated drive to increase the membership of the Vermont Mountain

Bike Association, nearly tripled this past year, from 450 to 2,200 dues payers. The group is trying to preserve and expand the 400 miles of single-track trails available to riders on private, state, and federal land, says the association's president, Sarah Gilbert. Individuals will pay \$48 a year and receive discount coupons for 40 shops, restaurants and restaurants.

Mountain biking is growing in popularity, with Vermont emerging as a leading destination, Gilbert notes. "It makes you feel like a kid again," the Montpelier resident says in explaining why the state is on rides of up to 30 miles on many evenings. "It's the way I live my life today."

Bicycle innovations

Burlington resident David Cohen started a cargo bike delivery business in Berkeley, Calif., nearly 20 years ago that's still pedaling strong today. Now, he's been hired as a consultant for Go Vermont, the arm of the state's

transportation agency focused on alternatives to commuting in single-passenger vehicles.

Cohen will be proselytizing for cargo bikes, which, he argues, can substitute for a car for shopping and errands. Besides creating environmental dividends, "the automobile is designed as a sensory deprivation device," says Cohen, who works as a parish referendum "liaison to minister users' access to the car world."

New cargo bikes usually cost \$1,000 to \$2,000 each, he notes.

Taking the pain out of cycling is also a motivating factor for Larry Gilbert, co-owner of Zoumoukka in Middlebury. Gilbert and Leah Schell sell electric cycles that they'll offer daily for three-hour test rides in the Montpelier/Middlebury area starting June 3. The battery-powered bikes, which can operate for up to 30 miles per charge, have a maximum velocity of 20 mph but average about 10 mph for most riders because the pedal assist is pedaled for the user to work.

Stern's cycles sell for \$2,400 to \$3,000. Electric bikes "provide enough power to move a medium person like me for leisure activities to ride up hills," says Gilbert, 59. He uses Zoumoukka's electric-assist cycling, mostly of aging cyclists such as himself — "people who want to keep riding but who just can't deal with the hills that are pretty much everywhere in Vermont," he says.

"People can't afford to park their car for leisure activities to ride up hills," says Gilbert, 59. He uses Zoumoukka's electric-assist cycling, mostly of aging cyclists such as himself —

"people who want to keep riding but who just can't deal with the hills that are pretty much everywhere in Vermont," he says.

INFO

More info at the following websites:
Vermontest.org: last-long weekend for cycling
house-renting, cycling, eating, and more (including
with supporting partners and a discount
using www.vtgo.org/vtgo)
vermontmountainbikes.org



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food

Snack Attack 2014

Summer food keeps on trucking **BY SEVEN DAYS STAFF**

Remember when "summer food" meant a picnic and maybe a trip to the local concession stand? Such was the case when the Seven Days "Snack Attack" series debuted in 2007, covering the state's summer snack bars. But, while those outdoor eateries will still be around, there's a new trend on the rise: the food truck. This summer, we're wondering: can we expect to see that fleet of trucks on wheels out in fall—and find—fave with pinching ingrengies streetside in Vermont?

In honor of the ghetto's most popular trend that Vermont has fully embraced, this year Seven Days' "Snack Attack" series delves into the state's food truck scene. We're not talking about the food truck as a trend, though. It's still in a bustle. Debuts at the Friday evening events May 16 (a prime) included a dinner special, Asian street food and other Latin American eats from an old favorite.

Others we've visited outside the Queen City for competition-style "van" racing admitted: "I thought about something called a 'Cheesie Wagon.' Without question, trucking the food truck explosion is one of our more favorite ways to spend the summer. And we're not" satisfied with the point of discomfort to taste the best from every vendor we encounter; all we can say is, "Kaboom!"

Alice Levitt

VERMONT HARVEST CATERING & CONCESSIONS

321-6244, Ryder Brook Golf Club, 3266 Laporte Road, Hinesburg. Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Looking for a meal on-the-go? You could head to a barbecue, or an eating establishment, or you could hit the Ryder Brook Golf Club in Montpelier. There, Vermont servers seasonal fare—incorporating a recent rash of spring menu pinches—ready—start your food truck for days a week.

That decision to prime ingredients is only natural for Schlesinger, a 2009 New England Culinary Institute grad. She grew up on Stetsonville Farm in Wolcott, where she still



works from her kitchen several times each summer. But when Schlesinger's Vermont National Catering outfit's calling high and she's got a party to cater, the chef at Bally Total Fitness outside the Ethan Allen Inn gets the ghetto's earned-by-exploited, robust, Vermont-style.

Schlesinger and her team began looking for a food truck last year. "Everything we had had was kind of random and dirty," recalls Schlesinger, who eventually decided to have the truck custom built. The resulting mobile kitchen is exceptionally well stocked, with cold prep, range to prep, oven, grill and fryer all in one. Schlesinger feels that saving for the kitchen of the menu she currently has in mind is a priority. She'll be there much day to passersby to illustrate it.

From the grill, she's got "versa" (think of it as "versatile"). On a recent Friday, fresh meat marinated in place sits on an overhead, olive- and lime-infused rotisserie-style rotisserie. The pinchos also show up marinated with every combination that collects the pectin, peckish, connoisseurish and bland. The heating mechanism of the range keeps the food warm and fresh from reaching overkill.

Fig. It's even one key to the success of Schlesinger's "versa" edifice: Adorn barn backs with such like-of-the-city salad fixings as chicken marinated in ginger and chiles. A wedge of lime comes and goes from every meal, remnants to beside the greens.

A relatively common lunch of the ghetto's team leaves ghetto's with an excuse to bring an applebutter or very doughy, overcooked in powdered sugar. They're served via brown paper bag, like a more gravy-like wares. But when dessert is that well-made, remember to beside the greens.

—A.L.

PINCHO! QUINO! (QUENO!)

600-8245, Seven End Truck Stop at Antietam, 400 Pine Street, Burlington, Fridays through Fall, 5 to 10 p.m.

Summerdale, 800 Interstate Road, Burlington, weekdays July through September, 5 to 8 p.m., and other locations to be confirmed. [dineanddrive.com](http://www.dineanddrive.com)

It's a team and **it's Queso!** (Queno!) prepster Lee Anderson found his food-crit's namesake 18th years ago on the smoky

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Snack Attack 2014 BY HANNAH PALMER EGLEN

verts of Puerto Rico. A friend was building houses down there, making the island a natural destination. "It was just really easy to go there — go swimming in the Rio Bay with all the phytoplankton, and gorge yourself on habanero 'n' dog," Anderson recalls. He fell particularly hard for habanero marinated meats on a stick called pescado. Last summer, he started serving them (and a veggie version) from a mobile cart around town.

The Pescado cart is back this summer with new dishes and a few menus. Customers can choose from a variety of local organic meats, which are skewered, grilled and served with coleslaw, beans, pambazo (a tangy chopped-cabbage salad) and spicy pescado sauce. Meat eaters can add an garlic-grilled summer squash with the same accompaniments.

Anderson is also rolling out tostadas for the first time, with characteristic *panino* (Dorothy's) interpretation. "We're gonna get really crazy with the tomato sauce," he says, "but just working with traditional Mexican flavors." Right now, you can enjoy a smoky jerk-style pulled pork with corn salsa and Ethiopian-style spiced berbere chicken (Berbere is a traditional blend of ground chilis, cardamom, clove, lemongrass, ginger, green cinnamon and other spices, depending on the cook.)

Vegetarians and vegans can try a sensible dish with lentils and potatoes instead of chicken, or sample elote, that Latin American grilled corn on the cob (served to carnivores with crumbled cheese and housemade chipotle sauce).

In the works to come, look for more tostadas at Pescado, styled with pork and lamb and other choices. All of them, Anderson would like you to know, are as organic as possible. "We can't say we're 100 percent yet," he acknowledges, but notes that, in addition to serving organic meats and produce, he keeps the staples — meats, flour, spices and sugars — free of synthetic chemicals and GMOs.

— HANNAH PALMER EGLEN



WARM-WEATHER DINERS CAN EXPECT TO SEE FOOD TRUCKS OUT IN FULL — AND FRIED — FORCE, WITH OPTIONS RANGING FROM VEGAN SWEETS TO BARBECUE.

DESSERT FOR BREAKFAST

South End: Thank God at **ARTIFICE, 4000 Penn Street, Burlington, Friday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Many of the delectable options available last Friday at Artifice's new-on-the-food-truck map are savory — and spicy — affairs. But the Dessert for Breakfast board, perched strategically near the exit, which makes no no, vegan, gluten-free and dairy-free cakes, ice cream and candies. Dessert for Breakfast, 28, prepares them using a few key ingredients: coconut oil, dates, cacao, bananas and various crap up in past about every menu offering.

"This stuff is healthier than what most people eat for breakfast," she says.

Though DeFrance has been whipping up raw and vegan meals for her family for more than a year, she started Dessert for Breakfast just three weeks ago. That explains the limited menu, which had just seven options last Friday (DeFrance stresses that more are on the way, especially after her new ice cream maker arrives in the next 10 days.)

Her Key lime "cheese" cake is cool, frosty and sweet. The coconut-oil-based filling melts in your mouth, with a delightful tart aftertaste, while the walnut-cold-crete crust adds richness and a hint of salt and crunch.

DeFrance's mango sorbet is made with mango, "a tiny bit of lemon juice and syrup and ice," she says, letting the fruit do all the work. Similarly, she keeps the chocolate-covered bananas simple. The dessert is essentially a frozen banana. Though DeFrance's raw cheesecake-brownie dessert is rich and perfectly sweet and the trout bags like antebodies something to set it apart.

The ice cream sandwich is a big cube of banana "ice cream" with a cacao-walnut and date "brownie" covered in chocolate. Though the brownie itself is a lovely combination of melty, sweetened, chocolatey cacao and chunks from the walnuts, the flavor of the big block of frozen banana, sweet-to-the-tooth, DeFrance says future sandwiches will feature less dense ice cream from her new ice cream maker.

The coconut-caramel clusters are the crème of the crop. A cooler-like layer of coconut and vanilla is topped with creamy "caramel" made from dates, then with shredded coconut. The caramel and vanilla flavors add extra dimension to the sweet chocolate covering that has become one of other menu options.

All in all, DeFrance works magic with limited starting ingredients. As her menu grows and diversifies, it's a sure bet that she'll deliver more and more delectable desserts.

— SHAN CHIENG-WARREN

LOST NATION SMOKE COMPANY

343-1401, 21 State Wilson Road, Etowah Junction, Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

As a longtime resident of Austin, Texas, this reporter can attest to the Lone Star barbecue and ribs as big and brash as a B-52's wingspan. That kind of history can leave a dinner skeptical of finding authentic barbecue here for that north of the Mason-Dixon Line. But, during a recent lunch break, it was easy to gorge on the grilled offerings of Lost Nation Smoke Co., perched

SNACK ATTACK 2014 BY PEGGY

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1 SIDE dishes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 47



Lukas and Pauli at MI CASA

flame? That means unconventional dishes such as a duck-confit taco served with cider-brined cabbage, apple and caramelized-hoisin sauce.

MI CASA KITCHEN + BAR
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Since **MI CASA KITCHEN + BAR** opened last Thursday at 129 Main Street in Stowe, the El Caso churrasco burger has been the runaway hit, says owners **PAUL** and **LUKAS**.

The burger's unique flavor is topped with Chihuahua cheese, chile de arbol mayonnaise, serrano and a fried egg, and served with a caesar salad.

This weekend, May 24 and 25, the Mount Snow Valley Chamber of Commerce would like to add a little fiesta to your Memorial Day break. The first annual **VERMONT MEXICANO FESTIVAL** is a two-day, family-friendly affair celebrating

Kermes's distinctive spring grass and its vibrant musical heritage. "We've been looking to do a spring festival," says NSVOC festival organizer **ABBY BROWN**. "The celebration here is a real

Vermont delicacy. And it's a great way — you can have a lot of fun with a field-to-table fest."

The event will commence on Saturday in West Dover with face painting, crafts, kids' activities and vendors. Among the vendors offered by local food artisans will be **CHURRO COOKIES**, pickles and relishes from **CELESTE'S SPECIALTIES**, **ROBINS COOKIES**, and cookies from **DOMINIC SWEETS**. Wrap up the afternoon with a "Fiddle Frenzy" featuring Capri, ayacucho and New England stringers, followed by a block party on Sunday in Wilmington village. More info at vermontmexicano.com.

—A. K. B. & P. B.

CONNECT

Follow us on Twitter for the latest food gossip: **Hannah Palmer** (@hannahpalmer) and **Paula Leppla** (@leppal).



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Snack Attack 2014

In the Huddy Station lot overlooking Route 302 in Essex Junction (look for the black smoker, flying an American flag, outside a gray wooden shack with a red metal roof).

Frrazier Rich Decker has earned his street cred among local barbecue aficionados. In his first-ever competitive season, he won Hiawatha's 2005 New England Regional BBQ Championship — and the grilling competition the next day since that barbecue takes home the grand prize at Pennington's statewide BBQ cook-off, and won New Jersey's amateur three times. Not bad for a retired carpenter and Philadelphia native who grew up eating cheesesteaks.

The raised grill at Last Stand (named for the Essex road when Decker lived) includes a two-foot, dry-rubbed ribs, a pulled-pork sandwich, baked beans and cole slaw (\$12). The last men standing, well, I assumed and crunchy fries.

The ribs are thick, smoky and flavorful, without too much fat. Though Decker describes his meats as "Korean City-style," he offers three different sauces, all served on the side: a vinegar-based Carolina sauce, a sweet-and-savory KC sauce, and a hotter version of the latter.



1304 Huddy Station
Essex Junction

Also good were the baked beans, which Decker flavors with grilled onions and smoky sausage. No stenciled bun on this meal involves the smugger bun as the simple grilled-pork sandwich is served. Such grumpy, portly goodness deserves a heavier bun as its delivery vehicle.

Decker earns bonus points for his

charitable work. He's a member of Operation BBQ Relief, a national nonprofit that shows up after major disasters to hand out free meals. After Hurricane Sandy leveled the Jersey Shore in 2012, Decker joined the many vendors who collectively served 120,000 meals. He also donates all his tips to the Ronald McDonald House St. Louis' good deeds.

KEN PICARD

DOLCE VT

324-6220, 400 Pine Street, Burlington. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; also serving at that address Fridays through Sat., 11 to 10 p.m., 24 part of the South End Track Shop at Arribalz.

Immaculate as Dolce VT's food might be described as a mix of flavors, the food truck has found a suitable location to park its bad self outside Arribalz on Burlington's Pine Street.

SNACK ATTACK 2014 PHOTOS

More food after the classified section. PAGE 3

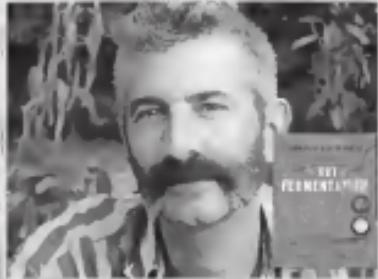
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SEE PAGE 2

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Snack Attack 2014

The "riot" in the title comes courtesy of well-seasoned pork fajitas, pupusas, maybe star power surrounded by ensalada, pickled carrots and onions, elote, and those indomitable kimchi, bacon mac and basil softs.

Stefano Chiarolla, 36, the owner-chef of Dole's VT, says, "I grew up on a really traditional Italian family. A lot of my inspiration is food that I did eat all the time — but also food that I didn't get to eat."

Those tastes reflect Chiarolla's impulse not to have too closely to any one cuisine, eating them in sort of like sampling the foods of several countries at once. The menu would be fun without the meat, as the head gal lists, soywan, but the human touch is a great touch. The soft, sweetfully unseasoned fajitas will be something

without the smugness of culinary snobbery.

Dole's can add another taste of Europe to their midday meal by ordering the traffic fries. These are top-notch fries, nicely sliced and grilling a meaty punch from a drizzle of truffle oil.

Chiarolla, who trained as a pastry chef, admits that the name of his truck is somewhat misleading. Dole means "sweet," but there are currently no desserts on the menu. "This is a working men's street," he explains. "There are no fancy businesses and my really blue collar. People want lunch. They don't want a dessert or a cocktail."

Chiarolla is waiting to develop a more regular clientele before introducing pastries, which are expensive and have short shelf lives, a particular problem for mobile



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www.citymarket.coop/dish



Pulled pork sandwiches from Mo's Backyard BBQ



Laoi dumplings and Hawker-style dumplings from Mo's

Snack Attack 2014

restaurants. He also hopes to start offering breakfast to morning commuters, he says.

Diner VT has a sweet deal with ArtisBrot: To pay for the electricity bill, Giorello makes lunch for the cafe and bakery's staff. ArtisBrot's newly constructed self-serve beer garden gives Diner VT the valuable advantage of a seating area. It's a great place to people-watch on a sunny day.

— ETHAN DE SEPE

MO'S BACKYARD BBQ

279-6422, Spender Specialties, 120 River Street, Montpelier. Tuesday, 4 to 7 p.m., and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Tractor Supply Company, 352 River Street, Montpelier. Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Capitol City Auto-Mart, 1862-85 Route 2, Montpelier. Friday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Montefield Farmers Market, Friday, 4 to 7 p.m.

Shawn "Mo" Mashinski is a popular guy. On a recent Thursday, he was sound every few minutes in friends and family the burly cook parked in front of Spender Specialties in Montpelier. While Mashinski was happy for copays meeting new people, the honks may not be so much for his social skills as for his barbecue chops. Since May 2013, he's parked his barbecue setup all over the Montpelier area in Mo's Backyard BBQ.

Though he wears a black chef's jacket with a logo sporting pig legs (on which the escape of a pork rib replaces the apostrophe in "Mo's"), Mashinski admits he had no professional culinary experience before he decided to teach his mobile grill and trailer. "I was pretty much just of people telling me what to do at work," recalls the former construction worker and landscaper. "It was the wife's idea," Jeff's just buy it."

That was good thinking from Amanda Meagan Mashinski. Shawn also credits his wife with his signature name, the Clinton Bond. It's a suitably weighty name for the chicken souvlaki stuffed with garlic and a blend of cheeses, then wrapped in bacon and slowly smoked.

If that doesn't lay waste to dinner hunger, Mashinski's mac and cheese will. The pile of elbow noodles is coated in Gouda, cheddar, and Parmesan and mixed with creamy cheese for an exceptionally smooth mac. Mashinski smokes a just enough to create a smoky dining, not a California wildfire.

A light wisp of smoke also induces Mashinski's pulled pork. He serves the hearty, if underseasoned, chunks of pig as an equally sturdy base from Red Dog Bakery in his hometown of Montefield. Exceptionally crisp, handcut fries come on the side.

Unlike Rich Decker of Lure Nation Smoke, Mashinski has yet to turn his love of outdoor cooking into a competitive career. But that, he'll need to switch from using his gas pit in wood — a leap he hopes to make by next season, when he'll also enter Harpoon's New England Regional BBQ Championship. As long as he keeps smoking that pork, we'll be cheering him on.

— A. L.

THE HAWKER STALL

304-5071, South End Truck Stop at ArtisBrot, 400 River Street, Burlington. Fridays through fall, 4 to 10 p.m., also on Wednesday evenings at ArtisBrot Kitchen Collective.

A few years ago, Jennifer Bernasau found herself transported to Malaysia with no plans and little money. "My girlfriend lost her passport at the airport, and we got stuck in Kuala Lumpur," says the cook,

who worked at ArtisBrot's long-running vegetarian counter-service eat the Counter Ground in the early nights.

"We had nothing to do but wait," Bernasau says on "but there [were] street vendors everywhere. Then I realized it was some of the best food in the whole world... I completely fell in love with the place." At the time, Bernasau was teaching English in China. He returned to Malaysia later that year and again in 2013, and now he's itching to go back. "I hasn't even scratched the surface of the food there," he says.

But the internet provides. Turns out, Malaysians are fanatical food bloggers. "They're amazingly prolific, and they often write in English," Bernasau says. "So it's really easy to learn how to make things." With cheer-buzzy Malaysians and remembered tastes to guide him, Bernasau set out to recreate dishes from Kuala Lumpur and beyond. He's spent the past few years combing through centuries of Asian culinary history for recipes.

The result is the Hawker Stall, which Bernasau opened last winter with weekly dinners at ArtisBrot Kitchen Collective. This summer, hitting up the South End Truck Stop for ingredients Malay carries and spicy pickled vegetables served over coconut-scented pomelo rice.

You'll also find Bernasau upholching lazy afternoons onto the griddle an interstate highway, which he rolls into petite rice rolls once they firm up. There, smoky, tamarind-glazed fishcakes are ready alone, but make a stellar vehicle for Bernasau's rotating cast of curries. Bright new, look for chicken and potato. Nonya meat, fiery with sweet spice (lime, clove, cinnamon) and overcooked and tempered with coconut milk and a spicy sliver of chile. Drop-in your rice for a satisfying snack and wash it down with a crisp, cold brew.

— K. P. E.

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MAY 24 | THEATER

Music Man

Paula Bonomi is ready for the stage. The accomplished tenor — who was in conducting, directing, performing and teaching among his many roles — has performed in major cities alongside top industry talents. These days, however, in Vermont, where he directs the Flynn Center's Performing Arts' show choir and musical theater programs, and about half a dozen for entertaining with vocal students and local choral groups, including the South Burlington Community Chorus. As a benefit for the latter, Bonomi is presenting the premiere of his one-man show, *Open at Dusk*. Report: powerballads and "stories on song" that explore love, loss, laughter and more.

Upcoming Shows

Salisbury May 24 8 p.m. at Higher Ground, in South Burlington. \$20. 802.656.0377.



Man & Beast

Major Mayhem Burgess is obsessed with weapons. As a child in North Carolina, she was especially drawn to Great Western Brewing, a place that abhors the old story of her collection, *Book of Lesser Perilous*. In this acclaimed debut, single girls, porcupines, vultures and weevils populate prose that, according to the *New York Times*, "provides fitting glories to the wrongness, the rabbitholes of the moral landscape." The Vermont-based writer transfers that keen eye to an examination of the human race in the forthcoming *About Fucking Women*. Here, 16 independent and refreshingly unselfish females, such as Linda Larkin's (Eligible) daughter and Oscar Wilde's (bedded) mom, talk for capturing characters.

Book Launch & Sign

Wednesday May 29 7:30 p.m. at Hotel Vermont in Burlington. Free. Info: 802.864.9324 mytinybeastpress.com

MAY 25-28 | MONTREAL

Go Bike Emma Niké All Fresh Vai

Sunday May 26, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, May 27, 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday May 28, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, May 29, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Place du Canada. See website for future dates. (775) 384-1111 ext. 504. vancitycycle.com



MAY 28 | WORDS

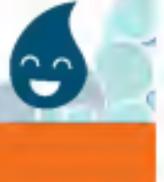
Free Wheelin'

Soon, some 40,000 cyclists will descend upon Montreal for the Go Bike Montreal Festival, the world's largest cycling festival, welcomes pedal pushers of all ages and abilities who celebrate human-powered transportation on routes throughout the city. Kicking things off is the Metropolitan Challenge, during which participants set their own paces and travel distances from 75 to 160 kilometers. Folks continue to spin their wheels at other notable events, including the Tour la Nuit, where costumed riders outfit for nocturnal cruising and an evening of revelry. The two-wheeled adventures conclude with the 30th annual Tour de l'île de Montréal, where ambitious athletes have the opportunity to circumnavigate the entire island city.

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BURLINGTON WALKER'S COUNCIL

MEETING: Learn how to make your neighborhood transportation system better by improving existing policies and infrastructure. Room 10, Burlington City Hall, 5:30-7 p.m. Free. Info 865-5449

SPRING IN GIVE GUT PROJECT (SIGGP): This becomes the issue when neighbors help community members with furniture, books and/or appropriate food items. Location: Room 10, Burlington City Hall, 3 p.m. Free. Info 865-5449

experiences

VERMONT/NEW HAMPSHIRE MARKETING GROUP CONFERENCE: The 5/20-21, 9:30 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

dance

SCHOOL DANCE HOUSE: Parents of preschoolers and kindergartners learn about options for alternative early childhood education programs. International Conference Room, Seven Springs, 8:30-9:30 p.m. Free. pre-registered. Info 869-3944

etc.

PEACOCK THURSDAY: SUPERHERO NIGHT: Peacock Drive, Langdon and Burlington High students' costumed attendees who match an item on each student's dipping menu at this week's "Bentley's" (404 St. Champlain St., 7 p.m. 7 to 10 p.m. cost of food, drink free, free 2013-2014) 865-4842

TEA & FORMAL GARDENS TOUR: Park on place like this and its cottage-style gardens, the 6/12 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. \$10. Info 860-232-0438

TECH TUTOR PROGRAM: Local teens answer quick, arts-based computer and devices troubleshooting on Saturdays at the Burlington Free Library. Without fee. Sign up. Free. Info 865-4555

WAHLQUIST LAUNCH DAY:

Student boat builders compete in a student's race with a team of crew, who judges the best boat on water performance. A reception and presentation by Matthew Stockwell of Mystic Seaport, Boston. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Vergennes, 7 p.m. Free. Info 479-2002

film

"THE ADDRESS": In his new documentary Ken Burns travels to Plowney's Discreet School, in which a yearly tradition has this year's member of staff and his wife, the Shengs, say Adieu. A quiet education follows. Kitebox Hubert Lienhard, Montpelier. 7 p.m. Free. Info 479-2002

WALKING: Participants conquer a 2-mile distance. Follows the park's path. Weather: Local sun. In the pursuit, her crew will use the instructive website: www.walkwithkaren.com. First House Multicultural Learning Performing Arts Center, Burlington, 7 p.m. 15-16, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

food & drink

FLYER HOMESTAY FARMERS MARKET: Locally sourced meats, vegetables, bakery items, oils and more. synergy helps hospital employees and visitors. The application for healthy. Date: 5/20. Cost: \$5. Fletcher Allen Hospital, Burlington, 8:30-9:30 p.m. Info 865-4797

health & fitness

START THE CONVERSATION WORKSHOP: The writing workshop on topics of choice for individuals. Dates: June 10, 17, 24, 31, 7:30-9 p.m. Info 865-1910

PLATE WITH A CHIPS: Singer songwriter and songwriter Chris Doseau performs with his parents' trio, (Battered Noses), Burlington, 10-10:30 a.m. Info 784-8930

TECH THINKING NIGHT: Middle school students connect, create, and make interesting projects. Boreas Public Library, 8 p.m. Free. pre-registered. Limited space. Info 220-4856

PRIVATE:

JAMIE JAMACHARIN & THE ANDI: Reggae band. An evening of spiritual, sultry and fun. Burlington, 8:30 p.m. Catalyst Church on University, Jester's, 7 p.m. Info 863-1000 ext. 2049

ROCHESTER CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY: Performers and their instruments. Host the Rochester Chamber Music Society at the First Congregational Church by Cynthia Hunter. Reception follows. First Congregational Church, Rochester, 7 p.m. Free. Info 757-9200

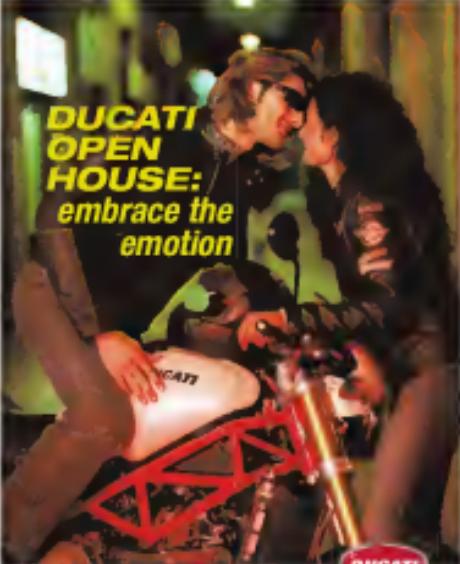
jazz/latin

INTRO TO ORBITAL RESOURCES: Learning cardholders learn to review a range of services, including energy, water and waste management. Community Library, 10-10:30 a.m. Free. Info 865-2420

EDUCATIONAL MUSICAL MIND: Folks examine the beat of that thought and introduce the music of the moment. Room 306, Jefferson Hill, 2199 Burlington St., 9 a.m.-10 a.m. Free. pre-registered. Limited space. Info 865-3666

LUNCH & LEARN: Burlington residents take a journey from Saito to the American dream in "An Immigrant's Story of Terror and Love." Drive inside Synagogue, Burlington, 12-1 p.m. Free. Info 865-4744

NIKOLAS BOTTINI & AARON ELLISON: The creators of A Perfecta to the stars of New England band. "Velocity and Velocity of Rockabilly Andie." Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences, Quechee, 7:30-10:30 p.m. Free. Info 302-5400 ext. 203



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GO RIDE MONTREAL FESTIVAL (See SUGGESTED
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GOALS

GROUP ARTWORK: Vermont Artists Space Grant
recipients Answer Davis (left) and Jennifer L. Karpel are
in progress on 10 compositions reflecting
their experience in Vermont. (Photograph:
Burlington Free Press) 7:30 p.m. \$2 suggested dona-
tion. Info: 860-324-5664

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See NEWS, C1

state of the

KERRY LYONS: The Chittenden County sena-
tor leads a discussion of campaign finance
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ing. Rockwood Free Library meeting, 4:30
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MEGAN MAYHORN BERNARD: The author of
"Eyes of a Lawyer-Detective" and the forthcoming
novel "Almost," Megan Mayhorne reads and
discusses her novels. See calendar specific page.
Hotel Vermont, St. Johnsbury. 7:30 p.m. Free.
Info: 860-439-1904.

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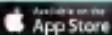
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OF THE ARTISTS
SEE PAGE 8



Laugh In

Breaking down the 2014 Green Mountain Comedy Festival

BY DAN BOLLES

The ninth annual Green Mountain Comedy Festival gets underway this week. And with it comes an abundance of opportunities to have your funny bone tickled by nationally renowned standup comedians such as Mo'Nique and Tig Notaro — or the interview with Notaro on page 38 — big-city comedy circuit staples from ImprovBoston and New York City's Upright Citizens Brigade, and more than 100 local performers. And that's to say nothing of the lots of podcast recordings and comedy workshops taking place over five days.

That exhaustion of comedic checklist leads to an obvious question: Where to begin?

What follows is a day-by-day rundown of some notable shows ahead for this year's festival.

Wednesday, May 21

The GMCP gets its start with a pair of standup comedy showcases at Notaro's and Club Mimosas, its Friday-night featuring the newest and most innovative comedians the state has to offer. Upstages at Mimosas, the state's most prominent standup troupe, the Vermont Comedy Den, holds court as they have since forming in 2004. Headed by founder and local comedy guru Jason Lento (a, the Diven feature of some of the area's favorite female comedians, including Carmen Legola, Barbi Ferrell, Tracie Ruppeneer and Adrienne "Wellie" Well).

Meanwhile, downstate in Newbury, longtime local standup and GMCP co-founder Kathleen Kenea hosts the French Market showcase, which features some of Vermont's most innovative comedians for goods.

Also on Wednesday, the GMCP debuts its first live podcast recording at the Hallie Geismar Stagehouse with a taping of the 31st State podcast, hosted by local comedians Will Sireta and Chicky Willefors. The pod is a lively, funny mix of arts and culture talk, with a few deck-punk thrown in for good measure. The guest for this episode: veteran house mixer DJ Doug Whitehead.

Thursday, May 22

The name to know for Thursday is Mo'Nique. Kaplan was a B-list actor on the NBC standup comedy show "Late Comic Standing" in 2010 and has since appeared on "The Tonight Show" — "The Late Show with David Letterman," "Comedy Central Presents" and "The Mo'Nique" — before performing at Club Mimosas and will also appear at the club earlier in the evening as a guest on the live taping of the WBRK podcast "You're the Rapper," hosted by Chris D'Urso and featuring comedians Anna Deacon and GMCP cofounder Nathan Hancock.

It doesn't stop there — or even at that — check out the On the Spot showcase at the Hilltop Com-

edyhouse. The set of local comics including Jason Lento, Carmen Legola, Will Sireta, Adam Cook, Jason Hunter Williams and 2013 Vermont's Funniest Canadian winner Phil Dardano will be put to the test. They will be given an odd phrase and then have to devise a standup set, well, on the spot. It's interesting and hilarious, which is what good standup should be.

Friday, May 23

What version of Green Doggo did you last return to when you picked it up today? Bullshit. It was 1999 and you know it. I know. We did, too, as did the improv comedians from ImprovBoston, UCB and Burlington's Spark Improv Troupe, who will round this paper's recent missed comedy haul with a craft improvized set at the Uptown Stage at the Notaro. From 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday, Phil Dardano, the Notaro Family (of Burlington) and Phil's a few local friends will not be mocked. And, yeah, maybe you'll only get yourself in trouble.

Moving on from Facebook has taught us anything, it's that nothing is funnier than your kids. Did we say kids? Sorry, we meant teenagers. Anyways, another shoulder-shrug will likely have us carpool to put out the car and begin the world for the Pawnee Night in Newbury at Hotel Vermont. Hosted by Atticus Spanner — who's not on presenting but is both host and gaffer — the show features comics Andy Pribble, Jason Cooley, Chad Cobey, Tracy DeLois and 2012 VPC champ Kevin Beyerally. Any jokes shared there that are in fact that, you know, funny. All proceeds go to benefit the Comedians' Kids Incurable Therapy Camp. (00:00 p.m.)

On the opposite beat, ImprovBoston's renowned Spaceman tango bandits show at the Skinny Pancake. Opening are Shemp, a two-person improv team featuring a pair of Middlebury College grads, Ben Ohren and Adam Becker.

Meanwhile, in Newbury, Sam Hunter Williams hosts the first of a pair of wretched showcases at Espresso Bistro. The Friday night slot includes Schuyler Kepler, Chris Marcellino, Will Sireta, Kathleen Kenea and Jason Lento.

Saturday, May 24

Saturday is by far the longest night of the GMCP. If you get shorted out of ice to Tig Notaro, there are still plenty of options. Take, for example, the Good, Clean Play standup showcase at Notaro's, an all-age appropriate show featuring 10 acts from the likes of Justin Krene, Bar Schmid, DJ Murphy, Cole Ryan and Jason Toney-Dolan. You could probably fit 10 of the "That's Just Wrong" skits at Hilltop, which features some of the most gleefully obscene comedians around, including Eli Officers, Kevin Rye, Marissa Dresler, Sam Pellegrino, Shereef Willefors, Chicky Willefors and Jason Cloud Petersen.

Hotel Vermont hosts a pair of intriguing showcases called Northern Hospitality, featuring a mix of local and regional comics. The early slate, hosted by Markin



Notaro, hosts: Chad Cobey, Adam Cook, Dardano, Rhine and Murphy. The box above, hosted by Clark, Kenea, Fisher, Marissa Morris, Josh Sireta, Will Sireta and Ben Ohren.

Saturday also brings the return of UCB improv troupe Arwulf, who perform at Club Mimosas. But since Arwulf includes a close friend of this writer, we can't go good conscience urge you to go, even though UCB has turned out more famous funnymen than we can count. Better we simply enjoy the mucus sounds of Rough Pneu, who are playing the Notaro after-party at the Skinny Pancake, after opening for her earlier in the evening. Oh, wait. That's a conflict of interest, no, and Arwulf front man Bobby Hackney Jr. is also on Hackney's stage. Darn it. Let's move on...

Sunday, May 25

The festival's closing night is highlighted by comic Daniel Sloss at Club Mimosas. The gladiatorial competition has made the rounds on the late-night talk show circuit and is regular at the Just for Laughs festival in her native Montreal. And, as always, Canadians are really funny.

Starting in the evening, also at Mimosas, check out the Best in Show showcase, hosted by Natalie Miller, which features several of the state's best and funniest local comics, all of whom have won or placed in the annual Vermont's Funniest Comedian competition. These include Nathan Hancock, Adam Sireta, Carmen Legola, Phil Dardano and Jason Lento.

Over in Blenheim another local showcase, Mass Appeal, brings the funny to Stewie McLean's. This one is led by Tracy DeLois, Kathleen Kenea, Dan Murphy, Hilary Morris and NYC's Ben Ohren.

Finally, if all that funny business has youitching to try your hand at making people laugh, swing by the Spark Open Improv Jam at the Skinny Pancake and jump in. This edition of the world's greatest (it's modeled after the TV show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?") — will feature members of the Spark Improv Troupe and Randomuse and is open to anyone who thinks they're funny. Good luck. (0)

INFO

Green Mounts in Comedy Festival: Wednesday May 21 through Sunday, May 25 in various locations around Montpelier, greenmount-festival.com

soundbites

BY DAWN BELLES



Mark Ransom

Held for Ransom

Earlier this year, locals were saddened to learn that **MARK RANSOM** had been diagnosed with stage III throat cancer. Ransom, who moved to Hawaii a year and a half ago with his girlfriend, songwriter and fellow Vermont native

MARJORIE, had been a fixture in the Burlington music scene for longer than many of the current generation of musicians have been alive. Trying to mount all the bands he's been in over the years would be an exercise in futility — not to mention painstaking. But readers of a certain vintage might recognize him from the several local blues rock band the **WARRIOR HOGS** (in the late 1970s and 1980s, or from his stint with the **SHAGS**). Slightly younger readers perhaps first encountered him holding down the low end for vintage country act the **OMANOMMOMS**, a popular bar band in the late 1980s and early 2000s, or, most recently, as a regular at Honky Tonk Tuesday at Radio Taos. However you knew Ransom, you probably regard him as one of us. He's one of the coolest guys we know.

To that point, this Friday, May 17, Ransom's friends and local bandmates are getting together for an all-star benefit show called Ransom Notes at ArtBlast in Burlington. As an aside, if you're

going to be in need of a benefit show, having a fast come that lends itself to awesome money pants doesn't hurt. I stole the title for this column from a benefit show and online fundraising effort that was, alas, held for Ransom recently in Hawaii.

On the way to a local ethno fund raiser for Ransom a few weeks ago, Go to fundraiser.com and search for "Ransom Notes".

As you'd expect, the turnout is pretty great. Orchestrated by Ransom's longtime friend and collaborator **BRITT HARRIS**, 12 different sets of top-notch talent, most of whom have played with Ransom in some fashion over the years, including but not limited to **BRONNIE CHISHOLM**, **SLA WISE**, **JEFF PARSON**, **ROBIE GARCIA**, **JOELIN PACHECO**, **AARON FURIN**, **BRINNIE JAH**, **SHAWNA THOMPSON**, **MARIE CLAIRE** and the **X TATS**.

"I'm hoping to cover a whole lot of the music Mark has done, and that he loves," writes **Blagges** in a recent email to **Seven Days**. "And more than anything, we just want to celebrate his profound influence on and participation

in the music scene here for decades. Mark always been my favorite bass player, heads-down, no contest."

I caught up with Ransom by phone from Oahu last week. He recently finished eight weeks of radiation and chemotherapy, a process that nipped 20 pounds from his already lanky frame, and is in recovery. He said he's still pretty weak but is slowly regaining strength.

"I'm starting to feel a lot better," he said, adding that the side effects of his treatment are were debilitating.

Ransom said there were no signs he had cancer, and a lung developed on the right side of his neck. It turned out the lump itself was not concerning but the lymph node was — it was too small and lymph nodes

"I don't really know how or why I got it," he said, adding that he never smoked cigarettes. "Maybe 10 years playing in smoky bars had some thing to do with it. It's really unlikely, but it was pretty painful but fast, though. I could see the hair reeling of smoke."

Ransom noted that hanging on the other side of the planet has been difficult.

"It's been a little weird to be far away from my family," he said. "But at the same time, the weather here is so much nicer. It really is paradise. It would have been tough to be so sick and be in Vermont in the dead of winter."

"So if you gonna be sick, I guess these are worse places to be than Hawaii," he joked, his voice weary and strained.

Ransom said he's received no prognosis from his doctors but that he's optimistic. "It'll undergo scans in June that should reveal how well the treatment is successful."

"That's a little scary, waiting for results," he admitted, explaining that his treatment was particularly aggressive. "I just hope it worked."

Ransom is deeply moved by the overwhelming support, both in Burlington and in his newly adopted Hawaii home.

"Most of these people here hardly know me, and they're throwing me

GOBROTHES • P.15

For up-to-the-minute news about the local music scene, follow **thesoundnotes** on Twitter or read the **Live Culture** blog at sevendayvt.com/liveculture.

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ROBERT M. REMILLARD
President of Oil n Go

soundbites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

fundraisers," he said. "That's pretty amazing. I'm overwhelmed."

Ramsey won't be able to attend the Burlington show in person. But he'll likely be able to watch from Hawaii via a live feed, and might Skype in at some point.

"I wish I could be there," he said. "I love and miss you all in Burlington. The supporting of Copper has made me feel so loved and honored," he continued. He paused and then added, "Not that I recommend getting sick for that, though."

In a related story: Pack pioneer

Bite Torrent

Apparently **DUKE PHANTOM** isn't busy enough spinning 80s, 90s and first nights a week, working behind the scenes for *Walking Windows*, and just generally being ubiquitous. Because this Friday, May 22, Mr. Phantom unveils his latest labor of love, a new monthly series at the Moody because-called *Boca Phantoms* and Friends.

DP writes that the series, which will happen on the fourth Friday of every month, has a pretty simple premise. He describes it as a "monthly party where I invite my favorite regional and local bands, DJs and sets to perform at my favorite venue." He adds that he got his start at the Moody and credits the club with making him the DJ he is today.

Interestingly, he also says the idea for the series was born out of a desire to present shows that are about something more grandiose than having a good time.

"I find sometimes people take themselves too seriously," he writes. "I want [this series] to be about pure, feel-good party-time fun."

A-freakin'-men.

The fest starts this Friday with the **HIGH INDIANS**, **PERUVIAN CLAWS** and a special edition of *Boca looks* — for the



Ray Lamontagne

uninitiated, that's his band with **TMWAL** as the backing band, which is awesome — and, of course, DJ Duke Phantom.

Last but not least, if you read the summer music festival preview on page 40, you might have noticed that the first show in the **BUDDY JONES' CANNONBALL** at the Green series is on Wednesday, May 26, with **RAY LAMONTAGNE** and **JASON ISHERMAN AND THE BELLINGHAMS**. And you might have been, like, "Whoa! It's sold out!"

Not quite. But we're getting there, lead. Point is, that show and all of the **Cannons** at the Green concerts — and the Lake Champlain Maritime Festival shows and Grand Point North, 327W — are put together by the good folks at Higher Ground Presents, which is the offshoot arm of Higher Ground, the neighborhood I mention because this weekend HGP are presenting what is probably the crown jewel in their offshoot concert series, the Boston Calling Music Festival.

The lineup for the three-day fest at City Hall Plaza in Boston is pretty freakin' impressive, featuring a few bands you might have heard of, including **MOSCOT MONK**, **DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE**, **JADE JORDAN**, **KURT VILE** and THE

WILBERFOLK, **WHITE SPOTS**, and the **HEAD AND THE HEARTS**, to name a few.

Right now you might be saying to yourself, "That's great, **DUKE PHANTOM**! But Boston isn't Vermont! What part of 'local music column' don't you understand?"

As counter, fussy Boston reader I bring it up to you: I somehow dig some really nice work on R&B purist. And 2) to point out that many of the bands at HGP will soon be making their way north to Vermont, including **Balkan in Spill**, the Head and the Heart, **Kari Vile**, and **FRANK TURNER & THE SLEEPING SOULS**.

The third reason I bring it up is that the Boston Calling website dated for September has even better lineup, including **PHILIPPE HALEY HOTEL**, **ASIAN DRAINS**, the **NATIONAL**, **THEE OH SEES**, **LAE**, **STETSON** and **UPON**. You might have noticed many of these bands are also playing VT in or close to September. (But not the National or Spies. Bring the Spies. Higher Ground.)

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REVIEW this

Elephants of Scotland, Execute and Breathe

[self-released CD digital download]

Progressive rock has never been all that popular. Long a bastion for awkward, art-phased, prog rock typically has about as much mass cultural appeal as tabletop history games or live-action role-playing. Ironically, if you're looking to form a prog-rock act, you don't do that yourself since thinking about rockies, time, and even critical acceptance outside of a few die-hards.

In this gloomy forecast, Elephants of Scotland, a Burlington act that proudly flies the prog-apollo, decided to form in 2010. If there's any truth to the bio on the band's website, Elephants of Scotland formed in order to be unpopular. Vocalist and keyboardist Adam Rubin initially wanted to make Isaacian rock and tragically unhappy music that paid homage to 1960s prog pioneers such as Yes, Rush and Kansas. Elephants and Breathe, the band's second

release, certainly meets those original qualifications.

But given that this record can qualify as "progressive," Elephants and Breathe comes up decidedly short with regard to musical innovation or even experimentation. In eight choices, the album cultivates a sedentary sort of middle-aged Muzak. "Amber Waves," the album's third track, is soft and unharmonizing enough to sound like the music that comes at you with every computer purchase.

In another instance, "A Different Machine," which is the album's sole hard rocker, makes a rather bland political statement by regurgitating that machine. Journeys and reggae have now all but Mendelus that into a dismaying topic that fails to disconcert. Instead of edgy, Elephants of Scotland just sound grumpy.

While Elephants and Breathe is mostly unconvincing, it is occasionally lyrical. This record bins off the standard prog rock tropes from the multi-part composition "Endless," Pts. 1 and 2, to the keyboard solo on "Mystic Trip." Fans of the genre have plenty to rejoice about, but, again, the question remains: How can progressive rock be "progressive" if it's formulaic?



Be nice to sneak a little of the past into our present. It's an admirable ambition, but often the results lack the specificity that makes art personal and emotionally robust, which in turn makes the present a little more so to us.

So it comes as a surprise when Cohen mentions "processed chicken soup" to the song "Pumpkins & Pumpkins." It's really weird to feel about taking care of someone who's fucking under the weather. There's nothing too modern about processed chicken soup — it's been around for a minute — but there is something about the lyric's specificity that jars us. You feel like Cohen is somehow present for the first time at the record. And his presence



is the ultimate disappointment with Elephants and Breathe — it's predictable. Undoubtedly Rubin, Orson McFerrin, Dan Macmillan, John Whyte and Greg Hoffman can play their playing, as that record, goes nowhere interesting.

Elephants and Breathe is available at elephantsofscotlandband.com.

— BENJAMIN WELCH

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: BENJAMIN WELCH IS A WRITER FOR SEVEN DAYS.



Phil Cohen, *Before I Go*

[TOMORROW WORLD RECORDS CD, DOWNLOAD]

Verment native and current Brooklyn resident Phil Cohen's latest project release, *Before I Go*, opens with an old-timey, frenetic plea for a stable relationship called "Love My Time." Complete with a weighty bass (Domenic Knott), drums (Matthew Witz), mandolin and fiddle (both courtesy of Remy Khaadri), the song钟响 in a freight-train pose, almost literally. You can hear the influences of American music pulsing through Cohen's dictum and delivery and, while his particularities are endearing, you can almost see why some of his fans are exasperated by his earnestness.

Before I Go moves along pleasantly in this manner for a little over half of its length. Songs such as "New the Corp" and "Sweet Kings County Flowers" point rural guitars of great mirth and rambling lonesome over fingerpicked acoustic guitars. You know, rustic shit like that.

This brand of nostalgia is a pleasant force in music these days, and for good reason. A lot of that eschews really fast and maybe not the better, so it might

be refreshing (full disclosure: I have a cold while writing this and may be slightly biased).

"Kindred Goss" rounds down *Before I Go*'s standout track, paints a picture more honest and modest than any you'd expect to find after listening to the album's preceding seven songs. Cohen has really made you wait for it. With just acoustic guitars and mandolin, he sings lines such as "We got our oats and we got our hens / And I think about you and you feel stony." And he even makes a causal reference to inserting cocaine in Trumy Town.

Perhaps these are fictional accounts, but in the context of this album they come off as pleasantly revealing and artistically bold. In the classic sense, there's nothing poetic about the words "Trumy Town," but it's something poetically honest about them. Unfortunately, *Before I Go* seems to leave us right at the moment when our narrator has hit his stride. It's looking to the future, Cohen.

Before I Go by Phil Cohen is available at philcohen.bandcamp.com.

— SEAN HODD



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10/30: ISLAND FRENCH (Long Island) 2:30 p.m.
BROOKLYN TERRACE (Brooklyn, NY)

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HALFDOME IN PLACIDITY: Family Night (mix) 10:30 p.m. \$10. Free

JP'S PUB: Census Vibeos Request Night with Jezzy 10 p.m. \$10

MARSHMALLOW & JEFF: Kansas with Funkytopia 8 p.m. \$10

MECHANIC 2: McLeinenberg, Rydell, Headworks 7:30 p.m. Cover \$10. \$10

RADIO PEAK: Acoustic: My Requests Requested (open to requesters) 7:30 p.m. See Open Mic, 3 p.m. Free

RED SOLARIS: Live Music 7:15 p.m. Free \$1 Cover

MISTER DOKE 10 p.m. Free

THE SKINNY PARACHE (JULIEN FERD) 7th Music with Kassade 7 p.m. \$1 donation

childhood country

LINE HOGGER: HOGG: Hypnotic & Melodic (solo) 8 p.m. \$10-\$15. Free

CPK TAP BAR & GRILL: Open Mic with Ryde 7 p.m. Free

a house/antique shop

MASON'S PLACE: Sale: Various (junk) 10 a.m. (most) 2 p.m. Free

TUE. 27

burningtop

CLARK HORNIGOLD: Stand Up with Clark (solo) 8 p.m. (open to requesters) 9 p.m. \$10. Free

HALFDOME SPEAKERBOX: Fundraiser for Tapella Project (mix) 10:30 p.m. \$10

LEONARD S. KASPER: Comedy (solo) 9 p.m. \$10-\$15. \$10. Last in line: Maxfield, "Thee" (solo) 10 p.m. \$10. Free

MECHANIC 2: Karaoke 8 p.m. \$10. Last in line: Maxfield, "Thee" (solo) 10 p.m. \$10. Free

RADIO PEAK: Stephen Colletti (solo) 9 p.m. Free. Host: Kendra Tuesday with Brett Hughes & Friends 10:30 p.m. \$12



SAT 4/24 / LIOT LIPP (ELECTRONIC)

Lipp Service

White electronic music geek mightily adored LIOT LIPP for his wide array of unconventional breaka, effena and technotropes, at the core of the much music is a pure love and understanding of melody. Lipp's ferre, genre-fusing mashups of beats, while undeniably danceable and intense, is anchored by binaural beatfiness. That quality gives his music an organically healing heart, even surrounded by all manner of electronic confettiions, and sets him apart. Lipp plays Signal Kitchen in Burlington this Sunday, May 24.

RED SOLARIS: Comedy (solo) 7 p.m. Free. Craig White (solo) 8 p.m. Free

2260 LUDWIG: Karaoke with Encore Collabors 8 p.m. \$10

childhood country

DRAKE GROUNDS RAILROAD: French Horn & the Sleeping Bear Bandolier (solo/punk) 8 p.m. \$10. All

CPK TAP BAR & GRILL: Three Night, 7:30 p.m. Free

burningtop/antique shop

KNOTHOLE: The Powell's City (solo/rock) 8 p.m. \$10. Cover

CHARLIE HILL & KAROLE: 8 p.m. Free

GARTH KOGA: TAKASHI: Open Mic with Jason Larkay 8 p.m. Free

STREET MUSICALS: Americana and Latin 8:30 p.m. \$10. \$15. Free

JP'S PUB: Pub Quiz with Dave 7:30 p.m. \$10. Karaoke with Maxfield 9:30 p.m. Free

JUPITER: Judy Wright CD Release Party (solo) 8 p.m. \$10. Free

LEONARD S. KASPER & GATE: Maxfield & Brett (solo) 9 p.m. (open to requesters) 10 p.m. \$10

MAGNETA/PEZZI & PEW: Open Mic with Andy Lopez 10 p.m. Free

MECHANIC 2: VT Comedy Club Presents: What's Aker? Comedy Open Mic/Standup comedy 7 p.m. Free. Gang of Seven: Open (solo) 9:30 p.m. \$10. \$15. \$20

RAD/NIRVANA: Jammin' Saturday (solo) 7 p.m. \$10. Rock Session 8:30 p.m. \$10. Local Break (solo) 9 p.m. Free

THE JAZZBO PARADE (REUNION) (solo) 7 p.m. Free. JAZZ PARADE: A Acoustic Soul Night, 8:30 p.m. \$10-\$15. Free

childhood country

THE HONEY HIVE: Vermont Wednesday: Outer/Far East (solo) 8 p.m. \$10. \$15. \$20

OPEN MIC: Open Mic: Late Night & Comedy (solo) 9 p.m. Free. \$10. Free

OPEN MIC/HARVEST: Open Mic/Session 7:30 p.m. duration

childhood country

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OPEN MIC: Open Mic: Late Night & Comedy (solo) 9 p.m. Free. \$10. Free

OPEN MIC/HARVEST: Open Mic/Session 7:30 p.m. duration

burningtop/antique shop

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OPEN MIC/HARVEST: Open Mic/Session 7:30 p.m. duration

burningtop/antique shop

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burningtop/antique shop

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childhood country

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burningtop/antique shop

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childhood country

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childhood country

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OPEN MIC: Open Mic: Late Night & Comedy (solo) 9 p.m. Free. \$10. Free

OPEN MIC/HARVEST: Open Mic/Session 7:30 p.m. duration



CRAFT FOOD FOR CRAFT BEER



CLARK HORNIGOLD: Standup Comedy (solo) 8 p.m. \$10. \$15. \$20

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An Artist for All Seasons

In the Studio With Mary Bryan, Bryan Memorial Gallery

An exhibition of Mary Bryan's paintings at her namesake Bryan Memorial Gallery in Jaffrey has been set up for several months, and that's a good thing. It deserves to be seen by as many people as possible. With more than 100 works in the show, local galleries may even want to start their own.

That's because, aside from the sheer quantity of paintings to take in, nearly every one of them reveals a new study. Most of these works—brought out of storage and given a rebirth for the gallery's 10th anniversary—have never been publicly shown, which enhances the viewer's sense of discovery and revelation.

One has to search at that distance, too. As gallery assistant director Jim Gullagno observes, some visitors have remarked that the exhibit seems like the work of more than one artist. Bryan created oil, pastel, watercolor, collage, graphite, pencil and more, and her mastery of each medium is remarkable. In fact, what impresses most is the show is the tightness of Bryan's technique, whether it's the wistful suggestion of form in a delicate, watery oil like *At the Beach*, or the resolute lines in charcoal or the energetic, expressive state of color achieved with a palette knife. The artist had a deep desire to extend the range of her materials, and one might guess, a fascination with their applications.

Stephanie Bryan's works hint at some of the art movements of that time—1890 to 1910—but, rather than adapting any one of these styles outright, she seems to have incorporated whatever elements suited her when representing her favorite subjects—cypress trees, rural landscapes, seascapes, women, deer, animals. (About the only genre she didn't tackle, it appears, is portraiture, though her mannequin is often depicted.)

Some of Bryan's paintings, such as the scene, it's 7 x 9, of grand Kilkis "Woods and Mountains," exhibit a postimpressionistic style and color palette. "City at Sunset," a 14 x 22 inch watercolor, shows how she adopted newer approaches, including color and abstraction, and made them her own. This is identifiable as an urban scene, but abstracted. A cluster of buildings are round and open-sided, perhaps a park there and clumps of trees are loosely sketched in, with outlines in black. Several slanted, gently ridged angles give the piece movement. The palette here is bold, the brushwork is varied and especially soft.

Contributing to the dreamy mood, the whole scene fits in the center of the paper,



REVIEW



MOST OF THESE WORKS HAVE NEVER BEEN PUBLICLY SHOWN, WHICH ENHANCES THE VIEWER'S SENSE OF DISCOVERY AND REVELATION.



bordered by crumby gray blue brushwork. Bryan regarded this idealized composition—the so-called *white wash*—as "ignorant," says gallery director Miriam Bryan—*in other* paintings, as well that area is more common. In this landscape, her approach was decidedly modern.

Bryan may have been a shape-shifter at the core, but what this collection of paintings reveals, too, is that the New Mexico-born artist not only got around—with her own family and then with her husband and fellow artist, Alden Bryan. The "multiple artist" effort this show is enhanced by the diverse geographic scope of her subject matter, from Arizona to Glacier Point, Alaska to Vermont. Several paintings of art European travel, as well—*—a large and rugged red poppy* painting on the show is an arid landscape called "Marofa, Portugal, c. 1888." The title of this exhibit is the co-avoiding "In the Studio With Mary Bryan." But it could just as easily have been "Across the Country (and the Adirondacks) With Mary Bryan."

The exhibit has too many paintings—and approaches, subjects and moods—for this page to do them justice. But one other attribute stands out: Mary Bryan was a master—*—master*—of the dark. It's hard to believe the same woman who painted the silly "Alligato With Luggage" ever painted her of many scenes she also produced paintings like "Deep and Dark." The aptly titled masterpiece is 11 by 18 inches, a dark landscape through trees, with a barely discernible river in the foreground, a hill in the background, a mysterious sky, and slivers of light in the mist.

Equally masterful is the rural landscape scene titled "Wool, Village Green Roads at Night," painted in a dark wash concept for the brilliant yellow lights in the house windows in "Night Colors." A 16 by 9 inch watercolor of a dark house in the sun, Bryan rendered an evocative scene despite the painting's diminutive size. Bits of yellow catch the light, working like embers, than a lichen

Bryan worked hard, too, reportedly at her easel before her last four days of her life. But, as in "In the Studio With Mary Bryan" simply illustrates, her home-schooled artist was a labor of love.

PAMELA POLSTON

INFO

In the Studio With Mary Bryan: Bryan Memorial Gallery in Jaffreyville, Aug. 29-Sept. 7. bryansmery.org

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Fri 5/20 Starline Rhythm

Boys

Sat 5/21 Dead Set

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Brotherhood**

Sat June 14

Twiddle

Sun June 22

Luciano

Thurs June 26

Rusted Root

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**Dirty Dozen
Grass Band**

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art

ELIJAH STONER IN BROWNIE (1963)

JOHN LORBERG Arriving for her second annual special day by the name of *Over-Whelming Borders* (OB) (which) required persistence. Fortunately OBIAA (Over-Whelming Borders International Art Association) and its members and supporters are happy to have been chosen to host. Thursday June 19 3pm-6pm 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn

SHALALA (The exhibit of new media and fine art) includes 100 works by Lisa Kasper, and others. The show is a mix of fine art and interactive art installations and sculptures by Susan Steinle. Closing reception Thursday June 19 3pm-6pm. Through June 20 10pm-10:30pm. 1440 Broadway, 9th floor, Manhattan

WISCONSIN ARTISTS GROUP (GIVE) (An exhibition of 60 works in oil painting, sculpture, drawings, prints, jewelry, and fiber arts) by Wisconsin artists. Curated by Diane Koenig. Curator's talk Saturday June 21 1pm. Through June 22 1pm. 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn

WISCONSIN CITY EXPRESSES (A group show featuring works by local young artists). Through May 21 10am-5pm. 7001 Brooklyn

WISCONSIN CITY EXPRESSES (A group of diverse women artists) and (including art by around four regents (Wisconsin State Art) by professional artists (members) of Wisconsin Visual Artists (WVA). Through May 21 10am-5pm. City Hall, 6th floor, 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn

childlessness country

ANNE-CHRISTINE KERSEY (An exhibition featuring her work by Sharon Koenig. Giclee and paintings by Sharon Koenig. Through June 30 10am-5pm. 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn

CHARLOTTE HARRIS (A collection of horses) Through June 30 10am-5pm. 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn

CHARLES ALLEN (Landscapes in watercolor) (The 10th solo exhibition) featuring art by Charles Allen. Through June 30 10am-5pm. 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn

JACOB DODDICK (Four oil paintings) (A collection of four oil paintings) (The artist's first solo exhibition) featuring art by Jacob Doddick. Through June 30 10am-5pm. 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn

SUPERIOR BLAHN (An exhibit that spans two centuries of glassmaking) with pieces from the museum's permanent collection and selected from private collections. Through June 30 10am-5pm. 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn

JAMES R. JOHN BURKE (New Etchings, small and medium) (Installations) (A collection of small and medium etchings) (The artist's first solo exhibition) featuring art by James R. John Burke. Through June 30 10am-5pm. 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn

MARK LORBERG (Opening to the public) (Paintings by the artist) (June 4-22 10am-5pm. 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn)

SARAH STONE AND PHARAH (The Long Type) (A collection of ceramic figures) (The artist's second solo exhibition) (1998-2013) (Painted, Sculpted, Ceramic, Glass) Through June 21 10am-5pm. 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn

CHARLES ALLEN (A collection of 100 pieces) (An exhibition featuring art by Charles Allen. Curated by Sarah Koenig. Through June 21 10am-5pm. 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn) (An exhibition featuring art by Charles Allen. Curated by Sarah Koenig. Through June 21 10am-5pm. 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn)

CHRIS LORBERG (Paintings and sculptures) (An exhibition featuring art by Chris Lorberg) Through June 21 10am-5pm. 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn

JOSEPH LORBERG (An exhibition featuring art by Joseph Lorberg) (An exhibition featuring art by Joseph Lorberg) Through June 21 10am-5pm. 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn



Jack Rowell

In 2009, Jack Rowell attended a reading by the Hale Street Gang, a group of a dozen seniors in their eighties and nineties who had been meeting regularly to write down their life stories. Rowell, a prolific local photographer, got involved; he's since captured images of each of those seniors. Rowell's larger-than-life, black-and-white portraits are the focal point of a touring, multimedia exhibit that honors the gang's stories and explores notions of memory and longevity. Sponsored by Randolph author Sara Tacke, the memoir-writing group has now been gathering and sharing stories for six years. "The Hale Street Gang: Portraits in Writing" runs through October 10 at the Great Hall in Springfield. An artist's talk is Saturday, May 24, 2-4 pm. *Portrait: Margaret Iglesias in Her 100th Year.*

and Suzanne Isaacs-Gallery (MATTIE MORSE)

"The Migration of Others," (photographs made with extraordinary memory) (A collection of Mattie Morse's work) (June 10-July 12 10am-5pm. 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn)

ONCE ONE WINDSWEPT PLUMS GROUP SHOW (An exhibition featuring art by the artist) (June 10-July 12 10am-5pm. 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn) (Curated by Diane Koenig) Through June 21 10am-5pm. 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn

CHARLES ALLEN (An exhibition featuring art by Charles Allen) (The artist's second solo exhibition) (June 10-July 12 10am-5pm. 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn)

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CHRIS LORBERG (Paintings and sculptures) (An exhibition featuring art by Chris Lorberg) Through June 10-July 12 10am-5pm. 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn

GILLIAN HAMPTON (Coral reef and landscape) (An exhibition featuring art by Gillian Hampton) Through June 11 10am-5pm. 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn

SARAH KENNEDY (A collection of Mary Oliver's poetry) (Poetry read by Oliver's poems) (The artist's second solo exhibition) (June 11-July 12 10am-5pm. 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn)

CHARLES ALLEN (An exhibition featuring art by Charles Allen) (The artist's second solo exhibition) (June 11-July 12 10am-5pm. 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn)

SUSANNE HESSEIN (An exhibition featuring art by Susanne Hessein) (The artist's second solo exhibition) (June 11-July 12 10am-5pm. 1000 50th Street & Park, Park Slope, Brooklyn)



VISUAL ART IN SEVEN DAYS

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STOREFRONT SHOWS: APRIL

Artists' Work Is In the Heavy Metal! The pottery exhibition is 20th anniversary with an exhibit of pouches in egg tempera, underglaze and a metal collage by a ceramic artist. Through September 2. Info: 802-362-1200. *Vermont Fine Materials Gallery on Jefferson*

Artist Show: M. Wright and Company Sculpting long established by the local artist. Through July 24. Info: 802-362-3341. *>Please be Kind* (Officer)

Artist Show: G. H. Wolf Sculpting and painting. Sculpting long established by the local artist. Through July 24. Info: 802-362-3341. *Wolfskin* (Officer)

Artist Show: L. L. L. (Lori L. L.) A ceramic celebrating all aspects of the sport, including elusive and unique song, howls, ceremonial, traditional, unique, landmarks and local country scenes. Through October 13. Info: 203-593-1999. *Reverence* (Seal and Sculpture Museum at Weston)

Land Songs Land When It The new song of the green mountains. A collection of 100 songs celebrating a long and varied history. Through January 1. Info: 802-229-2200. *Land Songs Land When It* (Officer)

Landmarks II *Landmarks II* (Officer)

We Are Shattered and **We Are** *We Are* Students of 12 area high schools. Students at Monk Elementary and Middle schools, Champlain High School, through June 1. Info: 202-933-8320. *We Are* (Officer)

We Are Shattered and **We Are** *We Are* Students of 12 area high schools. Students at Monk Elementary and Middle schools, Champlain High School, through June 1. Info: 202-933-8320. *We Are* (Officer)

Whitney *Whitney* (Officer)



Matthew Tell

Matthew Tell *Matthew Tell* has been participating in Vermont Open Studio Weekend for 20 years — never mind that his studio overlooks Stowe. Let us reiterate that visitors often ask: "How do you get out here in the winter?" Tell uses both wood and gas kilns to create smoldering ceramic art. He makes an array of bowls, vases, pitchers and other functional items with surprising sculptural elements and colorful, earthy glazes inspired by Vermont's natural scenes. And don't turn back if the drive is long; he has studio hours like 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. following the "Keep Going" and "Not Too Far Now" signs. Open Studio Weekend is Saturday and Sunday, May 28 and 29, 10 a.m.–8 p.m. Maps available at participating locations or online at vermontarts.org/studio. *Matthew Tell* (Officer)

Putney area

Takao Ito, Isao Ito, & Ito & Ito *Takao Ito, Isao Ito, & Ito & Ito*

Takao Ito, Isao Ito, and Isao Ito & Ito are artists who have exhibited in local galleries and at the annual exhibition of the Vermont Center for the Arts. Through July 12. Info: 802-480-4484. *Isao Ito & Ito* (Officer)

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Joan Hoff: New England landscapes and **landscapes** by the local artist. Through June 10. Info: 802-362-3091. *Roxbury Memorial Library* (Officer)

Joey Jackson: Vermont Through June 10. Info: 802-362-3091. *Roxbury Memorial Library* (Officer)

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• *Avengers: Age of Ultron*
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• Standard
• *Avengers: Age of Ultron*
• *Million Dollar Arm*
• *The Other Woman*Friday 22 - Thursday 23
The Amazing Spider-Man 2
The Amazing Spider-Man 2
• Standard
• *Avengers: Age of Ultron*
• *Million Dollar Arm*
• *The Other Woman*ESSEX CINEMAS & T-REX
THEATER151 Essex St, Winooski 05401
essexcinemas.comWednesday 21 - Thursday 22
The Amazing Spider-Man 2
The Amazing Spider-Man 2
• Standard
• *Avengers: Age of Ultron*
• *Million Dollar Arm*The Great Big Leg Lamp
• Standard
• *Million Dollar Arm*Legends of Dr. Seuss' The Lorax
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• *Million Dollar Arm*Home: Night Out
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• *Million Dollar Arm*The Other Woman
• 50 Men, Days of Future PastFriday 23 - Saturday 24
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• *Million Dollar Arm*Wednesday 26 - Friday 28
Home: Night Out
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• *50 Men, Days of Future Past*
• 50 Men, Days of Future Past

MAJESTIC 10

100 Carroll St (at Congress), Burlington 05401
802.860.5110 majesticvt.comWednesday 26 - Thursday 27
The Amazing Spider-Man 2
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• *Avengers: Age of Ultron*
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• *Avengers: Age of Ultron*
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MARGUIS THEATRE

Margu's, Winooski 05401

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Home: Night Out
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• *50 Men, Days of Future Past*
• 50 Men, Days of Future Past

PALACE 9 CINEMAS

101 Southgate St, South Burlington 05403
802.863.5200 palace9.comWednesday 26 - Thursday 27
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THE SAVOY THEATER

13 Main St, Middlebury 05753
savytheater.comWednesday 26 - Thursday 27
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STOWE CINEMA 3 PLEX

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THEATRE1515 Main St, Middlebury 05753
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The Amazing Spider-Man 2
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BETTER PLAYING FOR IT

UNDER THE SUN (NR, 101 min.) Director John Sayles (1993's *Brooklyn's Finest*) returns to his home town of Somerville, Mass., to make *Flirt* (1983's *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*), his second film since *Just Like Us* (2009's *Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story*). With John Goodman, Meryl Streep and Lynne Reiner-Rodney (both with RJs).

NEW ON VIDEO

3 DAYS TO KAKA (NR, 96 min.) Director Michael C. Giacchino (the Pixar movies *Up* and *WALL-E*) gives his first solo effort, *3 Days to Kaká*, a spin-off of *2002's* *Castaway* (which he wrote). It's a tale of a stranded soccer player (Kaka) who must survive on a desert island for three days to be rescued. It's a bit like *Castaway*, but with more soccer.

AMERICAN LAST (NR, 90 min.) First-time director Matthew French plays Dennis Peck's *Peck's Bad Angels* (1989) and *Bad Angels* (1991) in one chapter. Two men (John Goodman and Matt Craven) are made into a cult by their leader (Mark Wahlberg). *Am* is made by director Sean Park (2008's *Reckless* and *Leave Her in the Rain*).



MOVIES YOU MISSED

BY MUSSEYDIT WATERSMOM

Bad to the Bone: *MONSTERS*

This retooled *Angry Birds* (Warner Bros., 2016) version of *Godzilla* is repeat *Godzilla* (2014). What's different this time is you may be wondering, and what missed film *Impressions* says, the *big* difference this time?

Answer: We made a movie called *Monsters* (2016) for all you *Angry Birds* fans (2016) to be a sort of science and spec all effects (we consider all the slick software and its limitations).

In the *Movies You Missed*, *More* features every Friday new movies that were too weird, too cool, too offbeat or too terrible for *Vermont's* multiplexes.

Should you catch up with them on DVD or VOD, or keep missing them?

WHAT I'M WATCHING

BY ETHAN BEISCHER

This week I'm watching:

The Great Texas Dynamite Chase

The Great Texas Dynamite Chase is the true story, sans fiction prequel to *Thelma & Louise*, and it also happens to be the sexiest movie. The forest economic base of the oil and dynamite (Raymond Caud) is down rigs. This film is a western we'd eat.

One cannot live a professor of literature to live a life up to movie (*Verdant*) and write for *Sixty Days*, but movies will always become my best love.

In this feature, published every Saturday morning *Live Culture*, I write about the films I'm currently watching, and comment there on film history and art.

READ THESE EACH WEEK ON THE LIVE CULTURE BLOG AT sevendaysvt.com/liveculture

THE MUNICH (NR, 140 min.) George Clooney and Matt Damon play members of a World War II platoon that rescues a film crew on the Nazis' death役 project and escape from the Clooney-Warhol-Munich-Clean Shampoo and *John Goodman* (100 more PG-13).

PROFESSOR X (R, 130 min.) Hugh Jackman and Jennifer Lawrence (both nominated for the Academy Award this year) star in the thinking behind this intense, R-rated spectacle directed by Bryan Singer (2003's *X-Men* and 2006's *X-Men: The Last Stand*). (2013 movie PG-13.)

WANNAPIKE AGAINST BULLY (NR, 100 min.) A 100-year-old film that's been restored and expanded to 100 minutes, *Wanapike Against Bully* is a 1913 silent documentary about the fight against the U.S. Gold Rush from the Potawatomi (Barry) and Menominee (Dawn) tribes. (2013 movie PG-13.)

More movies!

Find series, events and festivals, or view other film reviews you can see in *Live Culture* in the calendar section.



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fun stuff

more fun! straight dope [p. 27]
 crossword [p. 6-8] & calcoku & sudoku [p. 6-7]

* NEW COMICS

eric everette



Stick 5 Angelica A Michael deForge ★

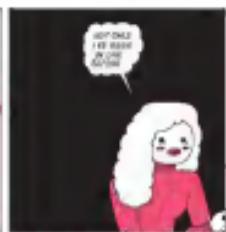
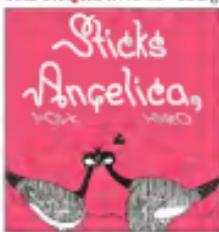
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HEART ATTRACTOR IS A PAIN

Curses, Foiled Again

British police arrested five members of a Liverpool gang for breaking into a clothing store a few hours after they attracted the attention of customers at a bar next door with loud lewdness while using a sledge hammer to smash the door. The suspects were apprehended after a high-speed chase. Attorneys for the defendants conceded the band was "well planned but badly executed." (Associated Press)

Investigation charged Ian Bishop, 19, with assault according girls using an elementary school restroom in Dagenham, town, after an excess food behind the toilet doors showed not only close-up images of children from the water down, but also the man standing there in lewd conduct on an after-school program at Hayes Elementary. "Although the male's face is not visible," the police affidavit said, "his identification card can be seen hanging from a looped on his neck." (Met Police, U.K.'s *WORLD* TV)

Another 15 Minutes of Fame

An Israeli company sprung Thembanganga Janga from a South African psychiatric hospital to appear a consummate in its social live streaming app. Janga gained worldwide attention at the age language interpreter at Nelson Mandela's memorial service who made meaningful gestures and afterward blazoned the internet as schizophrenia. Tel Aviv based

Lavalais hired a Zulu speaking pastoralist to convince staffers at the hospital that Janga needed to be released for a day for a "family emergency" and then shot the ad in a few hours, according to company marketing manager Self Shaded. After the National Association of the Deaf asserted that a company would "harm and portray any individual who has language difficulties with mockery of sign language interpreting." Shaded pointed out, "At the end of the day, a sign language user may get paid and did a nice campaign — and end up with a happy ending." (NACD News)

Slightest Provocation

Daniel Trent, 21, admitted stabbing a friend and his dog during an argument that began when Trent disrupted his friend's claim to the last beer in a 24-pack of Natural Ice. After Trent stabbed

Mark Durbin, 56, he said the victim told him to kill the dog, so he did. "I should've stopped drinking," Trent said. (Daily Star, U.K.)

Life's Ironies

More than 100 people reported suffering food poisoning at a national Food Safety Seminar in Baltimore, Md. After surveying more than 1,300 of the nation's top food safety professionals who attended

the conference, state health officials said only 400 responded to the actual tell-all night the higher. (ABC News)

Mother of the Year (Quarterfinals)

While on vacation in Key West, Fla., Sonante Stinson, 38, locked her 12-year-old son out of the car without any shoes because he was reading the car's GPS incorrectly, according to a police report. She also sent her 10-year-old daughter in search of beer. Police arrested Stinson, who lives in Sugar Land, Texas, on suspicion of child neglect. (Houston's KTRK-TV)

Police arrested Anna Hernandez, 21, for keeping her 8-year-old son, teenage daughter and three other teens with her to set fire to more vehicles in Port Huron, Mich. Hernandez said no motive had been determined. (Port Huron's KXAS-TV)

On Second Thought

David Shoff, administrator of the Port Head, Ore., Water Bureau, announced the city would flush 40 million gallons of treated water down the drain after several water customers caught a 19-year-old man appearing to urinate into an open reservoir. Tests showed the water

was safe to drink, but Shoff defended the decision. "My customers expect they will receive water that has not been flushed and contaminated." Two weeks later, the city decided not to dump the water but instead divert it to an empty reservoir to see how long it stays fresh and clean. Water Bureau official Jaymee Guti and (Associated Press)

When Christopher Lewis refilled his 89-cent drink without paying at a Veterans Affairs hospital in Charleston, S.C., a fell cop police officer issued him a ticket and hauled him from the hospital. Facing a \$325 fine, Lewis explained that he told the officer he had seen the sign saying no free refills and was willing to pay the 89 cents. Hospital officials who reviewed the incident decided a warning was sufficient. (Associated Press)

Wrong Arm of the Law

Ashley's deputy in Riverside County, Calif., trying to kill a dog he owned was threatening his life, pulled his service weapon, shot one round and injured himself in the leg, according to a sheriff's official. (Riverside County's Press-Enterprise)

A former police officer who tried to set fire to a land car belonging to a blogger who exposed police corruption in Little Rock, Ark., died while burning when the blogger tackled him and he fell face first. (Little Rock's KARK-TV)

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Mon Feb 2014

During the next 12 months you will have exceptional opportunities to soak up knowledge, add to your skill set and get the training you need to pursue interesting kinds of success in the coming six to eight years. What's the best way to prepare? Develop an exciting new plan for your future education. To get started, try the following: make a list of your most promising but still unripe potentials, evaluate on the

subjects that evoke your greatest curiosity, brainstorm about what kinds of experiences would give you more control over your destiny; and study three people you know who have improved their lives by taking aggressive steps to enhance their proficiency.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) A serene, persuasive power will bring strength from inward in the weeks ahead. The warm coming air at your mouth will sound especially inspiring. A life subject will your intelligence will be located in temporary appendage. The clarity of your thoughts will intensify. You will be gratified you have been placed in the past. Inconveniences solutions to keep running errands. The sleepiness is to occur to you. The any patient among you that you might replace. In mature your own qualities. You could become a big box office.

and here, but now that I've warned you of this possibility let's hope you will take steps to ensure it won't happen.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If there was a Hall of Fame for scientists, physical fitness hero Newton (1642-1727) would easily be the captain of the team. He was like the living and breathing DNA of the 17th century. He was 20 years old and still tiny when he began his theory of gravity and the three laws of motion that will rule the world. He made major contributions to mathematics and optics, achieved a minor breakthrough in medicine, and was a minor scientist. There is no better example to prove that you can be a success in life no matter what you are born with or what you inherit from your pet penguins. Whether or not you're born with it, it takes an excellent metaphor for this Horoscope. It's an excellent time for you to apply your friend talents and physical strengths to develop your own understandings and physical movements.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The moon shows us a different phase every 24 hours which means it's always changing. But in fact, not much actually happens on the moon. It has no atmosphere so nothing can rise or pass over its surface. There's some water and a few other things. Is there anything like this in your own life? Consider this something that on the surface of things seems to be in constant motion, but which undergoes stable, never fully shifts or develops? According to my analysis, this would be an excellent time for you to review the way you understand this part of your world and then update your perceptions of it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Have you thought of starting a crowdfunding campaign to boost your pet project or idea? I suggest you get serious about it in the next few weeks. The earning phase of your quest will be a two-month time to expand your audience and attract new investors to build a buzz. You still have a stash weeks ahead, but it's time to put your personal charm to serve your long-term goals. More than ever, your selfish interests will flourish with the greatest good — perhaps in unexpected ways.

VIRGO [Aug. 23-Sept. 22] From ages 11 to 19, a Virgo friend who was a talented singer, brilliant technician, skin-uptaker, flirter and ardent suggestress, making her worthy of being a

lead you to in almost any great name. And when you was in deep and had hours of performing, she often found herself standing in the shadows, barely visible and song, tearfully while her famous singer, though the spotlight at center stage. Many in the story. Some of you singers are very afraid, fearing your full authority. It cannot always come easy for you to share your light and radiate your power. And yet you can must decisively turn to us as we. The evening session will be an excellent time to make progress in this direction.

LIBRA [page 222, Oct. 23] "There is always an enormous temptation in all of life," writes Annie Gillies. "To divide yourself, making day baby friends and night real journeys into this lonely, separate, no-man ... I need to have it."

The world is wider than that which delineates more dangerous and often more exhilarating night. Your enjoyment in the coming weeks seems to be to recognize whatever is happening about your soul. The alternative? Head toward the front, and find drum-up experiences that will fill your heart and move your mind.

searching, for someone whose decisions play well with ours, writes journalist Hui Li Wang. That's good advice for you to keep in mind these days, though. That means the organizations that live within you may get you into trouble if they feel betrayed. But if you encourage them to play better with the important needs of people you trust, they are far more likely to get you into good trouble. They may even realize you have lots of gritty integrity there. Whereas when you say "You can't have big dreams!" like I do, Everyone has them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) "When people tell you what they are, believe them," writes blogger Maria Pappas (Boulevardsgirl.com). "Just as it's importantly necessary when people tell us to tell you who you are, don't believe them. Those suggestions are especially misleading for you. In keeping in mind these lines, you are entering a phase when your best self insights will be up for review and review and reevaluation. To foster an environment in which intimacy will thrive, you're going to be asked to explore, to learn, to assess, to reassess, and to reassess again. It's all fine, but right? A good place to

they are better than you do — even as you ask them to share the load.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): *Kidney* (immunity) is taking over that refers to a causing bad effects for an organ problem. It is a coldish temperature condition that would feel like heat temporarily even though it is a thinginess or seems reflected. Let's use this concept. In a metaphorical way it applies to you. You guarantee that you will be a kidney master in the coming days. You will be maintaining the heat at the same time. You may have helping support success at doing things that don't come naturally and you will get unexpected ways to connect galaxies that no one else has any idea about no one.

PISCES [Re: to resurrect] Even if you had a strenuous nursing mommy when you were growing up, chances are the conditions didn't play an important role in your life. This would be a good time to learn how to rebuild yourself better. You are finally ready to appreciate how important it is to be your own personal caregiver and I'm hoping you are no longer resistant to or even ambivalent about the idea that part of you life is still a child who needs unconditional love 24/7. Get started! Team yourself with the expert knowledge that a crafty nutritionist could provide.



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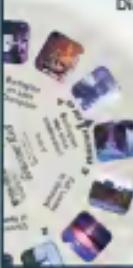
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